

FALL 2019 – FAITH FORMATION AT
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER SHRINE

To facilitate participation for busy, working people, we've adopted a "*Soup and Substance*" format. The Shrine provides a light meal consisting of hearty soups and breads from the kitchen adjoining the presentation hall (anytime after 6:00 pm) to be followed at 7:00 pm by the 90 minute educational session in the presentation hall, ending at 8:30 pm. People could arrive from home or work (at least without the need to worry about getting supper before arriving for the sessions), experience some common "down time," and then participate in the evening's class.

Want to come to a better understanding of why we Catholics believe what we believe? Want to be able to explain the basis of our beliefs to your children or grandchildren? Want to deepen your understanding of Sacred Scripture? Want to be able to defend your faith? Want to better appreciate the uniqueness of Catholicism and its 2,000-year old apostolic tradition?

Then these sessions are for you.

The Fall 2019 session of classes will run on 7 successive Wednesdays

(October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; November 6, 13)

[the schedule aims to avoid bad winter weather and the coming holiday season]

To cover our costs (food, supplies, hvac, electrical and staff expenses) we're asking \$15. per weekly session for the course – **** seniors and students automatically have a 50% discount !**

The topic area for our **Fall 2019 Adult Faith Formation** series will be the 1st installment in our series on Major Non-Christian Western Faiths (*combined with Islam next Spring*)

Part I - Judaism: A Major Non-Christian Western Faith

- the origins of Judaism & its Scriptures in Middle Eastern antiquity
- what it means to be Jewish – more than a religion – eras in Jewish history
- the meaning of Torah and its interpretation
- the Jewish doctrine of God and of Israel
- Jewish worship and festivals
- Anti-Semitism, The Holocaust, Zionism and the State of Israel

We would like to hear from you as to your interest and intention to take advantage of this opportunity to grow in the knowledge of your faith (we at least need a count for the opening session so as to prepare adequate space and provide for dining needs). Please call ***St. Joe's*** at (978) 458-6346 or e-mail us at (Info@stjosephshrine.org) or drop us a note at 37 Lee St. Lowell, MA 01852. Let us hear from you. **Please mark your calendars now and contact us ASAP so that planning can go forward for this exciting offering at *St. Joe's*.**

Help us to make the best use of ***St. Joseph the Worker Shrine*** as a spiritual and faith education resource in our area. It would be hard to beat the convenience and quality of the Adult Faith Education Programs conducted here every Spring and Fall.

This course will mark the 20th offering in this series – ***the reprise of a similar course presented 6 years ago***; this time, the material has been more selectively divided to allow for a more considered treatment and to allow for more discussion. Think about it, pray about it and let us hear from you in the coming days.

For more information visit www.stjosephshrine.org

Fr. Gene Tremblay, OMI, S.T.L.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION AT ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER SHRINE,
LOWELL, MA

Adult Faith Formation has been identified as a very urgent need in our times – it is one of the 5 strategic priorities in the Archdiocese! *St. Joseph the Worker Shrine* is positioned to be a resource for the Archdiocese of Boston to help meet that need. In addition to our regular ministerial service, we are offering faith education/enrichment classes for those interested in educating themselves in the faith and/or possibly working toward catechist certification.

Fr. Gene Tremblay OMI, S.T.L., who joined the *Shrine* staff after some 30 years in educational ministry and most recently, Retreat House work, is offering a series of classes on the truths of our Catholic faith. **The Fall 2019 offering will be the 20th in this on-going series.**

The faith education piece finds a place in the Wednesday niche of available time and space; that is, an evening program consisting of a 90-minute session once per week on successive Wednesdays in a 7 week block - faith formation needs to be approached in a systematic way if it is to be effective. There are 2 such “blocks” presented each calendar year (Spring and Fall) and the contents of these “blocks” vary among Scripture, doctrinal and morality courses

The content areas over time have included:

- 1) **Religion and Social Responsibility**
 - Christian Morality and Social Ethics
- 2) **Belief and Unbelief in the Brave New World**
 - comparative religions, atheism, philosophical underpinnings of contemporary Western culture (secularism)
- Major Western Faiths:**
 - 3) **Judaism**
 - 4) **Christianity**
 - 5) **Islam**
- 6) **Religion and Science**
- 7) **Catholicism Today**
 - Introduction to the Bible:**
 - 8) **Old Testament** (Hebrew Scriptures)
 - 9) **New Testament**
- 10) **Message of the Prophets**
- 11) **Letters of St. Paul**
- 12) **Christology**
- 13) **Modern Religious Thought**

The content here is challenging; however, decades of teaching experience have honed the skills necessary for rendering these materials understandable to college age young people and, therefore, to anybody interested in learning.

The populations served by such a program might be:

- DRE's and Youth Ministers
- Catholic School faculty members
- on-going education for Deacons
- any interested laity in the area
- catechists
- collegians
- follow-up for ACTS retreatants
- Oblate Associates

A **full set of class notes** is provided and a **certificate of completion** is awarded at the end of the 7 week session.