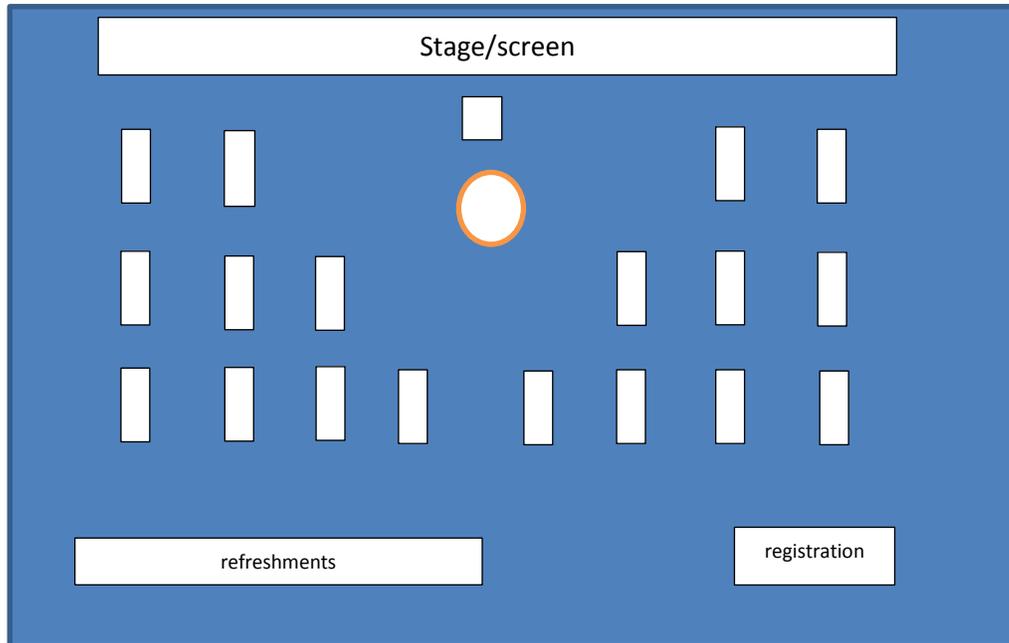


St. Cajetan Religious Education Kick-Off Event

Tuesday, September 16, 2014 (6:00 – 7:30 pm) – Memorial Hall

Preliminaries

- Design flier and letter, etc for publicity
- Signs and catechists directing people to Memorial Hall
- Memorial Hall set up with tables and chairs along with one round table for a prayer center and another smaller table for laptop and LCD (also tables for refreshments and registration)
- Worship songs/video playing/projected as people gather – prayer also projected
- Table settings (candle, sacred image, etc.)



Greeting and Prayer (Blessing & Sending Forth) 6:00 – 6:30 pm

- Greeting by Deb
- Opening Prayer
 - Call to Prayer
 - Song & procession of symbols
 - Sign of Cross and Opening prayer (Psalm prayed antiphonally)
 - Gospel acclamation
 - Scripture
 - Fr. Frank words of inspiration
 - Blessing of catechists, children, parents, and textbooks
 - Sending forth of catechists and children grade by grade to sung refrain

Parent/Adult Faith Formation 6:30 – 7:00 pm

- Ritual Matters Video (10 mins)
- Table discussion on video (questions provided) – 5 mins
- Deb input (15 mins)

Socializing and Registration 7:00 – 7:30 pm

- Refreshments & Distribute freebies (FG newsletters, etc)

Opening Prayer 6:00 – 6:30 pm

- Gather reps from each class to walk in procession with Finding God textbook.
- Call to Prayer (Deb)

Good Evening! My name is Deb Breakey and I'm the Director of Religious Education here at St. Cajetan. I'm privileged to have the opportunity to welcome you as we kick-off this year in faith formation and I'm also privileged to participate with you in this prayer service. So, let's take a moment now to place ourselves in God's presence as we prepare to encounter him in prayer. (pause 10 seconds)

Please stand and join in singing our opening song, The Prayer of St. Francis, following the words on the screen.

- Song led by Joe using video screen (Prayer of St. Francis) & procession of Finding God textbooks (one for each grade) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihhvm6eLWZI>
- Sign of Cross and ritual greeting (Fr. Frank)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

The Lord be with you.

AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT

AS WE BEGIN THIS CATECHETICAL YEAR, WE JOIN OUR VOICES TOGETHER IN GIVING PRAISE TO GOD AS WE PRAY PSALM 100. THE ADULTS WILL READ THE WORDS IN RED ON THE SCREEN AND CHILDREN WILL READ THE WORDS IN GREEN.

(ADULTS)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness;

come before him with joyful songs.

(CHILDREN)

**Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

(ADULTS)

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.**

(CHILDREN)

**For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

- Fr. Frank

Let us pray. Good and gracious God, you gave us the gift of your only Son Jesus so that we might grow closer to you. Open our minds and hearts now as we listen to the Good News that Jesus proclaimed to us.

- Gospel acclamation – led by Joe using video screen (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-07Wn7xRBhc>)
- Fr. Frank

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Gospel reading)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ.

- Fr. Frank words of inspiration (all are seated)
- BLESSINGS – Fr. Frank (Joe plays instrumental music quietly in the background)

As we prepare to send our catechists and children off for their first lesson of the year, we ask God's blessing upon the following groups. Will all of the parents and guardians please stand and I invite everyone to extend your hands over them in prayer.

- Blessing of parents

God our Father, let your peace settle within the hearts of these mothers, fathers, and guardians. Give them strength and wisdom as they care for their children. Show them how to raise their families with patience and tenderness. Give them strength during the times of greatest difficulty and help them recognize the little joys that are part of each day. Bless (+) them now with wisdom, understanding, and grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Parents and guardians, you may be seated. I now ask all of the children to stand as we extend our hands in blessing.

- Blessing of children

Loving God, look with kindness on these children whom the faith of the Church commends to your tender care. Your Son, born of the Virgin Mary, gladly welcomed little children. He took them in his arms, blessed them, and held them up as an example for all. We pray that you, Father, will also send your blessing (+) on them, so that they may grow in Christian maturity and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's witnesses in the world, spreading and defending the faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Children you may be seated. We now invite the catechists to come forward and stand before us as we extend our hands in blessing

- **Blessing of catechists**

Father of all families, you have called these people to serve the family in truth and love as catechists. May they be faithful to this call, rooted in your Word, and open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. May they use these gifts, especially the gifts of faith, hope, and love, to serve the family as a witness to you, who are love and life and the source and destiny of all families. Bless (+) them and let your Spirit enlighten their minds and strengthen their hearts so that they can be a path of Christ's love to families, especially those in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I invite the catechists now to hold a copy of their Finding God textbook in front of them as we bless them.

- **Blessing of textbooks**

Good and gracious God, your Son Jesus is the Word made flesh. Your Word finds a home in our hearts and calls us as disciples to preach the Gospel to others. Bless (+) these Finding God textbooks, so that as our young people open them, they will open themselves to your presence in their lives. May these books help them to see with truth, to hear with forgiveness, and to act with kindness. Grant that all who use them may grow in wisdom and grace before you and all your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Sending forth of catechists and children grade by grade to sung refrain – led by Deb

And now, we send forth the children with their catechists for their first of many sessions this year in which they will encounter Jesus Christ and his message of love. As the children and their catechists process to the school building, parents and guardians, we will sing a refrain following the lyrics on the screen: “In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice. Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices the Lord is near. Lift up your voices the Lord is near.”

I now invite the 8th grade catechist _____ to step forward and all of the 8th grade students to come forward to stand with her.

(pause)

I now invite the 7th grade catechist _____ to step forward and all of the 7th grade students to come forward to stand with him.

Go forth now and may the word of God be in your minds, on your lips, and in your hearts.” (all make three fold sign of cross on forehead, lips, and chest)

(direct them to leave as the refrain is led by Joe)

I now invite the 6th grade catechist _____ to step forward and all of the 6th grade students to come forward to stand with him.

(pause)

I now invite the 5th grade catechist _____ to step forward and all of the 5th grade students to come forward to stand with her.

Go forth now and may the word of God be in your minds, on your lips, and in your hearts.” (all make three fold sign of cross on forehead, lips, and chest)

(direct them to leave as the refrain is led by Joe)

I now invite the 4th grade catechist _____ to step forward and all of the 4th grade students to come forward to stand with her.

(pause)

I now invite the 3rd grade catechist _____ to step forward and all of the 3rd grade students to come forward to stand with her.

Go forth now and may the word of God be in your minds, on your lips, and in your hearts.” (all make three fold sign of cross on forehead, lips, and chest)

(direct them to leave as the refrain is led by Joe)

I now invite the 2nd grade catechist _____ to step forward and all of the 2nd grade students to come forward to stand with her.

(pause)

I now invite the 1st grade catechist _____ to step forward and all of the 1st grade students to come forward to stand with her.

Go forth now and may the word of God be in your minds, on your lips, and in your hearts.” (all make three fold sign of cross on forehead, lips, and chest)

(direct them to leave as the refrain is led by Joe)

Parent/Adult Faith Formation 6:30 – 7:00 pm

- Ritual Matters Video (10 mins) – Joe P. introduces
- Table discussion on video – 5 mins
 - Describe a family ritual or custom that you remember from the time you were growing up. How can you practice this with your family today?
- Deb input (15 mins)
 - Program details
 - Invitation to use this time for prayer and enrichment (adult faith formation) throughout the year
 - Response card (express interest in serving on ad hoc planning committee)