

Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

Happy summer OLOL family!

I am sitting at my kitchen table watching the wildflowers in my yard and a hummingbird working hard on our cardinal flowers. The butterflies are also out in force. Communing with the wildflowers, butterflies, fireflies, hummingbirds and other birds is a favorite way of mine to stay connected to the Earth and God's creation each summer. Though summer is hopefully a time for all of you to relax, recharge and stay grounded, it is also a time of preparation for the upcoming year.

Here in the Formation Office at Our Lady of Lourdes, summer is our time to evaluate the past year, and plan for the next year. As most of you know, our primary religious formation program at OLOL is GIFT (Generations in Faith Together). Tanya Gross and I have been working on the GIFT schedule and presenters for next year. The GIFT schedule and GIFT registration can be found on the [OLOL website](#). If you prefer a paper registration form, they are located in the magazine racks on the wall opposite of the Parish Office.

GIFT is an intergenerational religious formation program, meaning that it gathers children, teens, parents, grandparents, and other adults for shared prayer, learning, and service. Despite GIFT being around for over 20 years now, some people are not always clear regarding who can be part of GIFT. The answer is **everyone!** All households are welcome at GIFT, whether you have children in the program or not. We are here for the formation of the entire OLOL family.

Our theme this year is **"Walking in the Footsteps of Christ"** which will be explored through the lens of Franciscan spirituality emphasizing humility, joyful simplicity, reverence for creation, solidarity with the poor, being instruments of Christ's peace by fostering reconciliation, compassion, and harmony in our everyday relationships and living Gospel values. We chose this theme as 2026 is the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's death, and Pope Leo declared 2026 a special jubilee Year of Saint Francis.

A number of the presenters at GIFT this year will focus on various aspects of Saint Francis and Franciscan spirituality. GIFT presenters this year include Dean Muller, Fr. Joe Juknialis, Sr. Diana De Bruin, and Derek Mosley. Lisa and Jon Metz will begin our GIFT year on Sunday, September 13, from 9:00 am–10:20 am, as they delve into "Major Themes in Franciscan Spirituality & Why They are still Relevant Today."

To register and get more details, go to the [GIFT page on our website](#). Families with school-age children need to sign up for the entire GIFT year, while households without children can either sign up for the entire year (at a reduced rate) or attend individual sessions (at a cost of \$10 per session). If you have further questions about GIFT, please contact Director of Formation Ministries, Tanya Gross, or Director of Child Ministries, Steve Szymanski. We hope to see many of you at GIFT this year!

Peace, love & God bless you!

Steve Szymanski, Director of Child Ministries, Director of Social Justice

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Contributions to Operating Fund ONLY

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Operating Fund Pledge Contributions to Pledge

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«DELIVERY ADDRESS»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP CODE»

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