

# Faith & Sacraments

## **Sacraments at Our Lady of Peace: Marriage**

Elizabeth Pike, Director of Music & Liturgy

Celebrating the Sacraments and those receiving them is one of the most exciting things in Parish communities! In fact, we were delighted to celebrate a beautiful wedding liturgy last Saturday for the now newlyweds, Chris and Anna. While we hear a lot about Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, we don't always get to hear as much about the Sacrament of Matrimony. This is in part because weddings often happen on a Friday or Saturday and not at regular Mass, but there is a lot that our community does to celebrate with these couples. First of all, we are all called to pray for them during their engagement period and as they are married. The couple goes to a retreat themselves, but **a whole team of people from our parish works with couples to prepare them for their life long commitment.** This includes Father Ellis, who works to prepare them for the Sacrament as well as a mentor couple from our parish. Elizabeth Pike works with them to help plan their liturgy. The day of the wedding altar servers, the Priest or Deacon, musicians, and a wedding liturgy coordinator from our parish all

help to make the day run smoothly and to celebrate with them.

**Many people do not know that Weddings are a public affair in the Catholic Church, meant to be celebrated by the whole community!** While receptions are by invitation only, you are all welcome to come to the wedding to pray with the couple and rejoice with them as they receive the sacrament.

**At least 6 months of preparation are needed before the Sacrament of Matrimony.** If you are planning to get married, contact the church as soon as possible. Because we help to prepare you for a lifetime together, and not *just* for your wedding day, there are many steps including meeting with a mentor couple, Father Ellis, and the liturgist! Having a long preparation period will help you to have a strong, lasting marriage and to reflect on the beauty of married life!

**You can have a special blessing for your engagement or your anniversary.** If you would like to have one of these blessings, please contact Father Ellis ([jellis@olpmn.org](mailto:jellis@olpmn.org)); we can help arrange for a blessing to happen during Mass or more privately after Mass.

## **Why do we mark and celebrate Catechetical Sunday?**

Joy Biedrzycki, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

This year, the Church celebrates Catechetical Sunday on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The 2018 theme is "**Enlisting Witnesses for Jesus Christ.**" Those who the community has designated to serve as catechists will be called forth to receive a blessing and be recognized for their ministry.

In 1935, the Vatican published a document that asked every country to acknowledge the importance of the Church's teaching ministry and to honor those who serve the Christian community as catechists (teachers of religion). Beginning in 1971, parishes began celebrating the event at the local level. Since that time, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have designated the third Sunday in September as Catechetical Sunday.

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. It is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith. Those called forth at both the 9 am and 11 am Masses are classroom and parish catechists from the following ministries:

- Bible Study Facilitators
- Baptism Preparation Couples
- Marriage Preparation Couples
- Liturgy of the Word for Children Leaders
- Wednesday Night School of Religion DOF and EDGE Programs
- Teachers from Our Parish School
- RCIA Team Leaders and Teachers