



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for 2016-17

1. What are Small Groups and how do they work?

- **Small Group:** A small group is a group of 5-12 people who gather together to socialize, pray, study and grow in the Catholic faith.
- **Members:** Small group memberships vary from young adults, singles, married couples, women only, men only, moms, grandparents, neighbors, friends, co-workers, parishioners, or any other group. Although the small group facilitator is an Epiphany parishioner, members of the small groups can include parishioners or non-parishioners. Groups that have a common bond or interest will tend to stay together over time.
- **Facilitator:** Small groups have a facilitator who contacts group members, and facilitates the discussion. Suzanne Lewis, Adult Education Coordinator, or one of her team, will meet with each facilitator, provide all the forms and training needed, and assist throughout the session. (See FAQ #4).
- **Meeting Schedule:** Small groups will typically meet weekly from early October through mid-December, and then new studies will run from mid-January through mid-April. The group decides the days/times to meet. Small groups typically meet from 1 ½ to 2 hours per session.
- **Meeting Location:** Small groups often meet in a home, but may choose to meet elsewhere (i.e. a coffee shop). Additionally, Epiphany Church will provide space for small groups to meet on Saturday, Tuesday mornings and Tuesday evenings.
- **Materials:** This year, small groups will choose from the programs on www.Formed.org. Alternative programs can be submitted for approval for small group use to Suzanne Lewis, the Adult Education Coordinator, and Jill Fink, the Director of Religious Education.

2. Why should I join an Epiphany Small Group?

- **Relationships:** Small groups are an opportunity to create deep and lasting relationships, with people who will share times of joy in your life, and encourage and help you in times of difficulty.
- **Faith:** Small groups will help you to know, love and serve the Lord through:
 - **Prayer** – Small groups fuel your individual and collective (Mass and Sacraments) prayer life
 - **Continuous Learning** – Small groups provide spiritual growth, support and accountability in Christian living.
 - **Generosity** – Small groups may join together to serve together in the parish or community.
 - **Evangelization** – Small groups emboldens members to share their faith with others.
- **Mission:** Small groups can help you discern and live out the unique mission God has given to you on this earth.
 - As Cardinal Newman said in his meditation: “God knows me and calls me by name. God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work for me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission ... “
- **Relevance:** Small groups are flexible and can focus on the interests and needs of the members.
- Small groups are fun!

3. What materials will we be studying this year?

- This year, we will be using programs from the *Formed* website found at www.formed.org
 - Vibrant, relevant and inspiring programs on a variety of topics which will guide small groups.
 - Presented by some of the most trusted Catholic teachers in the world.
 - Unique video and discussion experiences.
 - Accessible on DVD or through our parish on-line subscription code **79f515**.
 - For more information, go to www.formed.org and explore for yourself.

4. I want to be a facilitator – when and how do I register? How do I plan my small group?

- See the separate page for interested facilitators.
- Side 1 is titled “FAQS for those Interested in Registering as a Small Group Facilitator.”
- Side 2 is titled “Interested Facilitator Registration Form.”

5. I want to be a part of small group – when and how do I sign-up?

- Some small group facilitators will form their own small group, inviting friends, co-workers, neighbors, school parents or other parishioners. You may be invited to one of these groups.
- For others, you can sign up at all Masses the weekends of Sept. 17/18 and on-line. You will be assigned to a small group, and an Epiphany facilitator will call you the following week. If you want to sign-up before then, complete the “Small Group Member Sign-up Form” found in the parish office or on-line at the parish website – epiphanymn.org – and return it to the parish office.

6. What is the 2016/17 Calendar for the Epiphany Small Group Ministry?

- Now to mid- September: Facilitator Planning Meetings
Small group facilitators meet with Suzanne Lewis (or one of her team) to plan their small group
- Early to mid – September: Facilitator Training Meetings
Small group facilitators meet with Suzanne Lewis (or one of her team) for facilitator training. Facilitator training materials will be provided.
- September 17/18: Small group sign-up weekends (all Masses) and on-line registration opens
- Week of September 26 : Small group facilitators will begin contacting their members
- Early Oct. – Early Dec: Small groups meet
- Early Jan – mid-April: New studies begin and groups meet

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