

Pflaum Gospel Weeklies: An Introduction for Families

The faith formation program we are using is called the *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies*. This program differs from other programs in a number of significant ways that make it an effective way to teach your children.

1 Liturgical Catechesis

This is a method of instruction that integrates faith formation lessons with the life of the parish community experienced in the Sunday Eucharist. The content of the program flows from the Sunday Gospel and children learn their faith within the rhythms of the liturgical year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time.

2 Sunday Mass

The Sunday liturgy is the heart of the parish community. The weekly celebration is more meaningful to young people because they are familiar with the Gospel proclaimed each week. They have studied it in class and wrestled with its meaning. With this program all students and their families hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They learn the Gospel. They love the Gospel. They live the Gospel in their daily lives. They share the Gospel both in the community of faith and, by their witness and loving service of others, with every person they meet.

3 Family Involvement

Your whole family can easily share in the learning because all children are studying lessons based on the same Gospel proclaimed in church on Sunday. You can gather all your children at one time to share what they have learned and to talk about it as a family.

4 Unique Materials

Because *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* do not use a textbook, they are very appealing to young people and easy to use in class and at home. Each child receives a “catechism handbook” called *What the Church Believes and Teaches* (or *Mi fe católica*, the bilingual version). This handbook contains all the doctrinal elements that are considered essential at each grade level. Each week your child will receive a new lesson dated for each Sunday of the liturgical year. These lessons are at the heart of the program and will be used in class and then brought home for you to see and talk about with your children.

5 Five Editions

The *Weeklies* follow the three cycles of Gospel readings in five editions used to cover all the grade levels: *Seeds* (Preschool), *Promise* (Kindergarten and Grade 1), *Good News for Children* (Grades 2 and 3), *Venture* (Grades 4-6), and *Visions* (Grades 7 and 8).

6 Online Resources

The free resources designed for families include *The Gospel At Home*, which is a weekly summary of the Sunday Gospel and suggestions for you to use at home. You can sign up to get an email reminder with a link to the resource. There are additional seasonal resources as well. All of these can be found at pflaumweeklies.com.