

GIFTS OF FINEST WHEAT FAQs



What does the program entail?

The “Gifts of Finest Wheat” is an adult religious educational process that will assist parishioners in better understanding and living their Catholic Faith. There are nine courses divided over three years. Each year there will be sessions in the Fall, Winter, and Spring – each around eight weeks. The first year’s courses are on Thursday evenings, from 7 to 9 PM, in the Social Hall (or other assigned rooms), in SSPP Ministry Center lower level. Childcare is available, if requested.

Who will be teaching the courses?

Father Thomas Milota will be teaching the 1st 8-week session and Father Ryan Larson will teach the 2nd and 3rd sessions this year. Next year’s speakers have not been determined yet.

What topics are being covered in the 3 years?

Year one includes – “The Philosophy of Jesus: the beginning of our faith”, “Topics from the Old Testament”, and “Topics from the New Testament”. Year two includes – “Ecclesiology: What is the Church?”, “Sacramental Theology”, and “Church History” (includes Social Justice). Year three includes – “Moral Theology”, “Liturgy (how it changes us as people)”, and “Apologetics/Evangelization”.

What are the levels of participation & what do the levels mean?

There are three levels of participation. Parishioners are welcome to drop into any session of interest, or they can audit any course of interest (come but not worry about reading assignments, etc.), or they can plan on coming to all nine sessions, doing all of the suggested work – which concludes with a summer service project, and those parishioners will receive a certificate from the Parish recognizing their work and growth in knowledge.

Will there be work outside the actual 8-week sessions?

In the 1st Course with Father Milota there will be minimal homework, no papers, and only a “take home” test. Father Ryan is still determining his assignments for Course 2 & 3.

Are there any fees involved in taking the course?

Participants are responsible for the cost of any books; and any additional *free will* donation, towards costs, will be appreciated. The book for the 1st 8 week session is ***The Philosophy of Jesus*** by Peter Kreeft and the encyclical: ***“Faith and Reason”*** by Pope John Paul II. We are currently working on the getting the book and will post the cost here when we have it.

What topics will be covered in the 1st 8 week session?

The first course, *“The Philosophy of Jesus: the beginning of our faith”* starts **October 2nd, at 7 PM**, and includes topics like – “What is philosophy, and how is it connected to theology?”, How do we know things, and why is that important?, How do faith and

reason differ?”, “The Catholic Difference: substance vs. accident, being vs. doing, What is a soul and why is it important?”, “Divine Revelation...What is a person?, Who is Jesus?, What is materialism?, What is secularism?, How does that affect me?”, and some “Moral Theology: How do my beliefs affect how I behave?”. Our Pastor, Fr. Milota, will be teaching the first course; and the primary text will be The Philosophy of Jesus, by Dr. Peter Kreeft, and Fides et Ratio, (Faith and Reason) an encyclical by Pope John Paul II. There will not be much homework, no papers, and only a “take home” test. For those who cannot help missing a session, we hope to have a recording with which you can make up the class.

When do I have to register for the 1st session?

Please register by September 16th, to guarantee a book for the 1st class. When registering, you do not have to commit to a particular level of participation; we are mainly interested in who is interested in any level of participation and who would like a book. On-line registration is preferred – click [here](#) to register

Where will the program be held?

All the sessions for Gifts of Finest Wheat will be held in the SS. Peter & Paul Ministry Center, 36 N Ellsworth St. Naperville.

What time will sessions start and how long will they last?

Currently all sessions are scheduled for **7:00 PM on Thursday evenings**. Sessions will run approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours, depending on the topic, including a Q&A period.

Will Childcare be available?

At this time childcare can not be provided for the sessions. If that changes, we will let you know.

Who do I call if I have further questions?

Questions can be directed to Christine Kancewick, Director of Adult Faith Formation, at 630-718-2154 or by email to ckancewick@sspeterandpaul.net