Have questions about SS. John and Paul's G.R.A.C.E. program?

Whether you are new to SS. John and Paul or have been around for years, we thought you might be interested in a brief recap of our parish-wide G.R.A.C.E. Faith Formation Program.

Q. What is G.R.A.C.E?
A. G.R.A.C.E. is a Catholic Faith Formation program at SS. John and Paul Parish that involves the whole community.

Q. What does G.R.A.C.E. stand for?
A. G.R.A.C.E. is an acronym for Growing and Responding as Catholics Everyday.

Q. So G.R.A.C.E. is just another way of saying Catechism/CCD?
A. Sort of… but not really. When we hear catechism or CCD, we typically think of a weekly "Sunday School" program for grade school kids. While G.R.A.C.E *is* essentially the catechetical program of SS. John and Paul Parish, it is so much more than that.

Q. How is it different?
A. For starters, G.R.A.C.E. involves the WHOLE parish community, not just the grade school kids. Secondly, it is structured quite differently than your typical CCD program.

Q. How is G.R.A.C.E. structured, then?
A. We have designed our yearly formation opportunities for the whole parish community around three components:

- Monthly gatherings involving the whole community, including parents and children, teens, young adults and adults without children.
- Age-specific gatherings for all levels.
- Sacrament-focused gatherings for those preparing for one of the sacraments.

The monthly G.R.A.C.E. sessions form the core of the parish faith formation program. The additional G.R.A.C.E. gatherings help to develop the core more specifically for various age groups and situations.

Q. What is the purpose of G.R.A.C.E. vs. a traditional Catechism program?
This intergenerational approach to faith formation more closely mimics "life as it happens" by involving the whole family as well as the entire community. Adults and young adults serve as role models in the faith for younger generations, while children and youth help us keep the faith more vibrant and dynamic. Life in community is always enriching!