



When “Because”

may no longer cut it in answering questions about  
our faith

**How do you know that? What do you mean by that? Can you explain that to me?** These appear to be simple questions, except when asked about our faith.

Many of us were raised to be cautious about asking questions, particularly about faith. After all, as thousands of bumper stickers and key rings have put it, “God said it, I believe it, that settles it.” Perhaps this is a good approach to blind faith, but for living faith that is not what Jesus wants. Faith is living in the tension between two realities — what we experience in our fallen world and what we know to be true about the kingdom of God.

Some believers have been taught that it’s wrong to question, but without asking questions we will not possess answers. Questions lead to understanding and understanding leads to a deeper faith. Probably the most crucial thing you can do to develop a stronger faith in God is to ask lots of questions! Jesus spent considerable time asking and answering questions. Let’s face it --Jesus loved a good question!

This year’s Growing Our Faith will provide **for honest dialogue about your questions and responses based on today’s key resources for our faith.** There is no unimportant question when it comes to your faith. Remember: Jesus always listened, responded and even rewarded people who came to him with honest questions. The GOF team will endeavor to respectfully and honestly respond to these questions using the following resources: *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*; *The Rites* (Volumes 1 & 2), *The Catholic Study Bible*, and selected digital clips from materials produced by The Augustine Institute.

## Sacred Scripture – The Bible

**Revelation, Inspiration,  
and God’s Inspired Word  
Transcribed Through Human Authors**

### **Session 1: September 5**

**Divine Revelation – God “unveils” Himself to us and reveals God’s plan for our lives.**

### **Session 2: October 3**

**The Bible – Through the inspired Scriptures, God speaks to us as a loving Father speaks to his children.**

## The Sacrament of Reconciliation An In-depth Focus on Confession

### **Session 3 November 7**

This session will briefly address the history of Penance. The bulk of discussion will focus on the following interwoven topics of:

**Temperament, Faults, Temptations, and Sin**

Various examinations of conscience will also be distributed.

## NO December Session

### Who Am I To Judge?

#### The Challenge of Morality and Relativism

How do we talk about morality in a world that no longer believes in truth? When we are bombarded with messages with “Be tolerant” and “Don’t judge” are we afraid to say anything that is right or wrong? Where can we learn about the balance between truth and compassion?

#### Session 4: January 9

This deep problem needs us to look at life through the lens of classical moral worldview, virtue, and friendship.

#### Session 5: February 6

How do real freedom and real love help us to become the kind of people God expects us to be and rise above the ‘anything goes’ culture to engage in the REAL art of living??

#### Session 6: March 13

Practical ways to engage with our relativistic friends that is not just tolerance, and to show that disagreeing on a moral truth does not mean I hate you.

#### Session 7: April 10

Exposing the Mask of Relativism by showing what it is often covering up and being given strategies for living our faith in a relativistic world.

### Open Microphone (but no karaoke allowed!)

#### Session 8: May 8

This is your opportunity to ask those “burning question” that we did not get to and/or to visit any of the areas that we did discuss. Totally in your hands!!!

Please reserve the following WEDNESDAYS  
(6:30 pm to 8:30 pm) for your faith questions:  
September 5, October 3, November 7  
January 9, February.6, March 13,  
April 10, and May 8.

*All Sessions begin at 6:30 pm with a light meal.*

## Registration

For more information about the program  
or to register for the program,  
(or for a special topic that piques your interest 😊)

Please contact:

Bob Soeder

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or

Sister Helene

[srhelene@saintmonicachurch.net](mailto:srhelene@saintmonicachurch.net)

You also may register by calling the Parish Office:  
216-662-8685