

ALPHA is coming this Lent!

About Alpha:

Alpha is a tool for re-energizing faith that is being used by thousands of Catholic parishes in over 70 countries around the world. In particular, it is attracting many young people who are asking the question, 'Is there more to life than this?'

Alpha is more of a faith sharing opportunity where people come together and explore what it means to be Christian. Alpha is not so much concerned with theological facts, but with basic "why am I here" questions. Alpha is much more about heart knowledge than head knowledge.

Christianity is first and foremost about relationships rather than rules. It is about a Person more than a philosophy. It is about the most important relationship of all—our relationship with the God of all. Jesus said that the first and greatest commandment is to love God. The second is to love our neighbor. So, it is also about our relationships with other people as well.

Alpha invites people to respond to the good news through a decision to follow Jesus. Parishes around the world have seen significant growth in numbers and a new enthusiasm for mission. New members of the parish, having come to faith during Alpha, frequently join parish activities and bring the freshness and joy of their encounter with Christ into the life of the parish.

The Evangelization Team has been meeting and praying about when to start and run ALPHA, and we've decided to start the Monday following Ash Wednesday. For 11 weeks, we will start with a completely free catered meal, followed by a DVD presentation and small group discussion. More info will follow in the weeks ahead.

One Catholic pastor has said this about ALPHA: "I have been running Alpha in all my parishes since 2001, and I am even more convinced than ever that it is the most effective tool I have found to date. There may be another, but I have not yet found it. I have seen all my parishes transformed by placing Alpha at the center of our evangelistic efforts, and have even expanded the use of Alpha in my present parish. At my parish, we are clear that Alpha is not just one of many programs we use, but that it is foundational to our identity as a missional and evangelizing Church. . All these courses are run by our parishioners, many of whom have experienced conversion and transformation through their own experience of Alpha."

- **ALPHA Schedule on back . . .**

ALPHA SCHEDULE FOR MEALS, PRESENTATION, AND GROUP DISCUSSION

Monday March 1 at 6 PM to 8 PM – Meal, Presentation, Discussion

Topic 1: **Is there more to life than this?**

Monday March 13 *Time same as above*

Topic 2: **Who is Jesus?**

Monday March 20 *Time same as above*

Topic 3: **Why did Jesus die?**

Monday March 27 *Time same as above*

Topic 4: **How can I have faith?**

Monday April 10 *Time same as above*

Topic 5: **Why and how should I pray?**

Monday April 17 *Time same as above*

Topic 6: **Why and how should I read the Bible?**

Monday April 24 *Time same as above*

Topic 7: **How does God guide us?**

Saturday May 1 **Day long retreat from 9 to 3 PM**

Topics 8—11: **Who is the Holy Spirit?; What does the Holy Spirit do?; How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?; How can I make the most of the rest of my life?**

Monday May 8 *Time same as above*

Topic 12: **How can I resist evil?**

Monday May 15 *Time same as above*

Topic 13: **Why and how should I tell others?**

Monday May 22 *Time same as above*

Topic 14: **Does God heal today?**

Monday May 29 *Time same as above*

Topic 15: **What about the church?**

Sunday June 4 **Pentecost: The Birthday of the Church**