

# ***F.A.Q.'s for Seasonal Small Faith Communities (SFC's)***

## **What is a Seasonal SFC?**

- A gathering of six to twelve people that invest time with one another to support each other's spiritual growth and readiness to celebrate the Seasons of Christmas and Easter.
- Meetings last 60-90 minutes, and include time for reading scripture, praying, and faith sharing.
- **Faith sharing** is what happens when members share an "Aha moment," becoming aware of how God has touched their life, and they share that experience. SFC's share their faith walk with one another in confidence.

## **When will the groups meet and where?**

- Meetings take place once weekly during the weeks of Advent and Lent.
- You are welcome to join us for either or both seasons.
- Meetings usually last from 60 to 90 minutes.
- SFC hosts decide on the best locations for their meetings. Some SFC's take turns meeting in the home of one of the hosts. Other SFC's may reserve community rooms, such as public libraries or apartment/condo buildings. Outdoor parks may also be a consideration with a stormy weather back up plan.

## **Who will lead the group? What books will we be using?**

- The SFC Hosts will invite each member to contribute to the group as they are comfortable.
- Host training will be offered prior to each season. See Host guide posted on this SFC page.
- Books will typically contain seasonal readings, reflections and prayers with space for journaling.
- Costs of books average about \$10.00-14.00.

## **I really don't know many parishioners here, how can I find the right group for me?**

- SFC's are a great place to meet other parishioners!
- Our meeting days and times will be posted for Advent and Lent, several weeks before the seasons begin.
- Please check our weekly bulletin and website for updates

## **I already take part in a lot of parish activities... How are Seasonal SFC's different than other parish groups?**

- If you are active in the parish, an existing group or ministry in the parish is a wonderful place to start a Seasonal SFC!
- If you are in an existing SFC or Alpha Connect group, your groups frequently take part in a Seasonal SFC—either by adding new members, or recruiting 1-2 Hosts from within your group to help start a new Seasonal SFC.
- SFC's are not formed for the purposes of Bible study, though it does include some Bible Study.
- SFC's are not discussion groups, such as book clubs—though lively discussions can take place!
- SFC's do not take the place of groups formed for community service, self-help, or counseling; though SFC's frequently encourage outreach and service projects within and outside of our parish.