



Dear Parents,

As you may be aware, we are kicking off an exciting new program here at St. Francis de Sales called Alpha. We want to invite you to join us in January for this incredible opportunity to lead your family closer to Christ as you grow in your own faith.

Recent studies show the faith of parents is THE key in children keeping their faith as adults. The most current statistics by our U.S. Bishops are disheartening, telling us by age 23, 90% of young people will leave their faith. As parents, you teach them the importance of studying, eating well and practicing to excel in sports. These are all good things. We often think we have time to get to faith or hope that going to a Catholic school or PSR will do the trick. It is good to teach your children and to hope others will also model the faith and teach our children about the faith, but no one has more power and influence than you as a parent. Our same U.S. Bishops show us that when parents are also intentionally growing in their faith, it is 80% likely that their children will live their faith once they are adults. Alpha can help our parents and our parish.

What is Alpha? Alpha is a course and a seminar, it is a gathering of believers (and non believers) searching for answers; Alpha is an experience and opportunity to answer together some of the most fundamental questions for believers (and non-believers), folks who are strong in their faith and those who are weak, doubting and struggling, and everyone else in-between. Alpha is an opportunity to ask questions and have open, honest discussion in a non judgmental, welcoming environment. No question is too simple or too deep.

Alpha is an opportunity to know the identity and mission of Jesus and rediscover ourselves in him. In a word, Alpha is "AWESOME!" Over 22 million people worldwide have experienced the 10 week Alpha Course in the past few years and countless have been dramatically changed, simply by getting to the core of Christ and Christianity through Alpha. And...Alpha is coming to St. Francis in January.

Here's how Alpha works. Every session, for 10 weeks, our parishioners, 18 and older, will gather as a community of believers in Johnson hall. (On Sunday evenings, Wednesday evenings and Tuesday mornings) We will share a meal each week and table fellowship. Next, 30 minute videos will be viewed each week, exploring the core components of the Christian faith. Then, the large assembly will break-down into small groups, with table hosts and helpers facilitating discussions that stem from the videos.

We would like to see all of our school parents take the lead in our parish to make the intentional choice to grow your faith year over year, and grow the faith of our parish, beginning with Alpha. We are looking to you to take the lead in transforming our families and our parish. Sign up for Alpha now. Our website has the [forms or an online registration](#). If you have questions, attend our "Come and See," December 10th at 9:15 AM in Johnson Hall.

So join us for dinner and a movie for 10 weeks beginning in January... you will be blessed, your family will be blessed, our school will be blessed, and our parish will be blessed by your participation and leading us into the future.