

Meet Your Parish

May we introduce you to Patty “Why” Moore?

Why why?

Well, “Why” is what she hears so often—loves to hear, really—from her classes as a Holy Trinity Faith Formation teacher. Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings find Patty in the Religious Ed classrooms working with her young charges on the Faith Formation curricula, but with special emphasis on sacramental preparations for First Reconciliation, and later in the year, First Communion.

Patty loves the work. She must. She has been teaching for Holy Trinity for 18 years. Patty started out with Kindergarten; did a year with 6th grade. But Patty finds that a classroom of 2nd graders with a few older children who are also preparing for the sacraments is her chosen work.

“Reconciliation is special with the young because they are so nervous going into First Reconciliation—it is a bit scary for them. But I love to see them coming back, smiling, almost skipping, and lighter, as if a big weight has been removed. It becomes a celebration.” Patty’s advice to her students? “Talk to God through the priest. Go and say that you are sorry. Ask forgiveness.”

If a child is especially nervous or if their parents sense that, we encourage them towards Fr. Jack’s line. “Fr. Jack is especially good with the children at their First Reconciliation.”

Patty gets help from her husband, Terry, as well as from their son, Jarred and their friend, Corum Szathmary.

Has Patty seen a difference in her young charges through the years? Today’s youngsters are want to know WHY. “They are exposed to so much in school, where they are supposed to question. They are so inquisitive and don’t just take things at face value. When we visit the church, the kids want to know about things, and often ask, Why?” “I like to get them into the church—let them get familiar. That’s a bit easier on Wednesdays. The last two weeks the Wednesday class has had a chance to look the traditional confessionals and the Reconciliation Room and the Baptismal font. “Why is there a curtain in the reconciliation room?”

Things move with the seasons—liturgical and temporal. Advent begins the more focused preparations for First Reconciliation, which will take place after Christmas, while Easter is the season to prepare for First Communion in June. Over 18 years, Patty has had the pleasure of knowing families, particularly if several siblings pass through her class. “It is also nice for the kids to have friends here in class that perhaps go to different schools, friends they only get to see here.”

Patty is more at home with art, so class activities frequently incorporate that.

Each year is different as each group is unique. Often there is a stand-out “knower,” and her classmates wonder, “How does she know those things?” Their inquisitiveness is a motivator for Patty. “They are like little sponges, soaking up everything around them.”

“Sometimes, it just doesn’t seem like I’ve gotten anything through to the class, yet they will come back the next week and I’ll be amazed at what they DID get.

Faith Formation Director Maureen Wilber summed it up. Patty epitomizes the dedication and service of our Parish’s Faith Formation teachers. They are an incredible blessing to Holy Trinity.

