



**Forming/Organizing Small Groups
for Lent 2018**
**Lent begins on Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2018**

SCHEDULE:

September 2017

- It's not too early to begin informing the parish about the Lenten program on parish website and bulletin. Since Lent is very early this year, now is the time to begin promoting the program. December is Advent and people will be thinking about Christmas not Lent.

Website

November 2017

- Put an announcement **in the bulletin** and **on parish website** about Lenten Program
- Offer a petition in **Prayers of the Faithful** for the success of the Lenten Program (See suggested Prayers at www.disciplesonthejourney.org home page).
- Print or distribute a **"Disciples on the Journey" Prayer** for the parish to pray at home or as a group at Sunday Mass.
- Call previous small group leaders to see if they are willing to serve as leaders again this year.
- Send a letter or card with sign-up forms to previous participants or all parishioners.
- **November 19 2017**
 - o **Early (1st) Sign Up Sunday** to get numbers for Early Bird Special order (Go to website www.disciplesonthejourney.org for How To Form Small Groups.) Also download a suggested sign up form.
 - o Have witness talk at Masses from someone who has participated in faith sharing in small groups.
 - o **Have a bulletin insert or flyer** that explains the program. If possible send cards or personal letters to parishioners.
- **November 26, 2017**
 - o **2nd Sign Up Sunday**
 - o Advertise in Bulletin
 - o Have pastor or deacon encourage people to sign up to participate in the parish Lenten program
 - o Pulpit witness talk by parishioners who have participate in faith sharing in a small group.
 - o Have sign up slips available.



December 2017

- Continue to put announcement in *parish bulletin* about Lenten Program (See suggestions for bulletin blurbs at www.disiplesonthejourney.org Home Page.)
- Continue to have the parish pray for the success of the program
- May want to call people who participated in the past.
- **Order books now** to get *Early Bird Special* and save \$5.00 per pack of 10 books. You can order again if necessary.

January 2017

- **Week of January 7-13, 2018**
 - o Form a phone committee to call parishioners who have not signed up yet.
 - o Organize Groups; sort sign-up slips according to days and times and form groups.
 - o Call those who signed up to be leaders to confirm that they are willing to serve as small-group leaders. Check on information- phone, email, etc.
 - o Call those who have indicated that they are willing to have a group meet in their home. Check on information- phone, email, address, etc.
 - o If you do not have enough leaders or homes, call parishioners and ask if they are willing to lead a group or if they are willing to offer their homes for a small group to meet.
- **Week of January 15- 19, 2018**
 - o **Order books** (if you have not done so already) in order to make sure you have them in time to use for leader training. You can order again if necessary.
- **Week of January 29- February 2, 2018**
 - o Train or retrain (refresher) for group leaders Go to website for an outline.
- **Week of February 5-19, 2-18**
 - o Distribute books to small group leaders or have participants pick up a book at the church or rectory.
- **Week of February 11-17, 2018**
 - o Small groups meet this week in preparation for the first Sunday of Lent February 22



*One of the best ways to meet Christ is to share faith.
Evangelize your parish through Lenten small groups.*

