

*Join us for Alpha  
during Lent 2010!*



**For more information, contact:**

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# The ALPHA Experience



## A Practical Journey Through Our Christian Faith

Alpha Meetings begin  
February 23, 2010

**St. Matthew Catholic Church**  
**1555 Glen Ellyn Road**  
**Glendale Heights, IL 60139**  
**(630) 469-6300**  
[www.stmatthewchurch.org](http://www.stmatthewchurch.org)

**A Great Lenten Journey!**  
**Register Today!**

### What is ALPHA?

**A**n anyone can come! Anyone interested in finding out more about our Christian faith is welcome.

**L**earning and laughter. Join others in a relaxed atmosphere.

**P**asta (or other great food). Each session begins with dinner.

**H**elping one another. Dinner is followed by a large group presentation and small group discussion.

**A**sk anything. Here's your chance to ask your questions and express your opinions.

### Who is ALPHA For?

ALPHA is for everyone! It is especially geared to:

- People who want to brush up on the basics of Christianity
- Those who are returning to the Church
- Newcomers to the Church
- Those who are interested in investigating Christianity
- Couples preparing for marriage or who are starting families
- Anyone seeking a closer walk with the Lord
- Anyone going through a tough time in their life.

### What Happens at ALPHA?

There is a series of talks on topics such as:

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus die?
- Why and how should I read the Bible?
- Why and how do I pray?
- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- How can I resist evil?
- Why and how should I tell others?
- Does God heal today?
- What about the Church?

Following dinner and after each talk, there is small-group time for everyone to discuss any questions or issues they have. This gives everyone an opportunity to get to know each other and to learn together.

# The ALPHA Experience

## When and Where?

ALPHA will meet every week for 10 weeks, beginning with a Welcoming Dinner and ending with a Celebration Dinner. Each week will begin with dinner! Following dinner and opening announcements, we will enjoy a presentation and then some group discussion. This is a journey... please be prepared to commit to attending all the sessions.

### ALPHA Welcoming Dinner

Tuesday, February 23, 2010  
6:30 -9:00 pm

### ALPHA Sessions

Tuesday evenings, March 2 through May 4, 2010  
6:30—9:00 pm  
Saturday, April 10  
8:30 am—5:00 pm - Mass together

### ALPHA Celebration Dinner

Tuesday, May 11, 2010  
6:30—9:00 pm

All sessions will be held in Hurley Hall.

There is no cost to participate in ALPHA. However, any donation to help defray the cost will be gratefully accepted.

## What Has ALPHA Meant to Participants?

"ALPHA is the tool that is bringing into reality in our lifetime the church we have always dreamed of. I've been doing evangelization programs in the Catholic Church for 30 years. The life of the parishes is the number one thing that's changed since ALPHA. People are now so excited to be in church and they can't wait to tell other people about what's happened to them. Their experience of conversion is so magnetic, it just draws people in. If ALPHA is starting in your parish, you should consider joining in." **Mary Hagar, St Timothy Parish, Minnesota**

"I heard about ALPHA from some friends who had done the course and I thought it sounded wonderful. My friends and I thought that perhaps we could run it at our Catholic parish. I saw with my own eyes and experienced in my own heart what Jesus and the Holy Spirit can do in a person's life." **Steve Schindler, Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, Lake Charles, Louisiana**

"In my opinion, ALPHA accomplishes an incredible task, in making people interested in faith and in making faith relevant to the modern man. I especially appreciate the ecumenical spirit of the ALPHA course: There is no pressure on anybody to join a different denomination, but just to join Jesus and to put Jesus at the center." **Father Raniero Cantalamessa, Preacher to the Papal Household**

"Through the ALPHA course, I began to realize that God knows me and, what's more, that he loves me. Within 8 months of starting ALPHA, I had become a Christian and joined the Catholic Church." **Anna Whitelock, 23, Post graduate, Cambridge**

"Although a Catholic born and bred, when my children arrived I questioned whether I really believed it. Having done ALPHA, I found the answer to many of my questions. It was such a good course, I took it back and ran it in my parish with great success." **Jenny Baker, wife and mother**

*"...many claim ALPHA has changed their lives and appear genuinely happier for the experience."*  
Time Magazine

# ALPHA Registration Form

Tear off and drop off at Alpha table in the narthex or at the Parish Office

## Personal Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Hm: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## What Sacraments have you received? (informational purposes only) Please circle

Baptism Catholic Confirmation      Catholic 1st Eucharist Reconciliation

## Have you ever participated in the Alpha Experience before

Yes      No

### Age Group

Under 21    21-30    31-45    46-59    Over 60

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

**FEBRUARY 10, 2010**

Return your completed form to the ALPHA table in the church narthex or to the Parish Center (attention: Mick Ruddle).

**SPACE IS LIMITED,  
SO REGISTER TODAY!**