

From the very **foundation of our parish community**, Spirit of Christ has maintained a tradition of gathering small groups of people for the purpose of **sharing faith and life**.

Small Church Communities have evolved from the experience of neighborhood mini-parishes, RENEW groups, the RCIA process, and parish support groups. Today we continue to encourage and support this **dynamic model of Christian life** first described in the New Testament.



They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common.

Apostles 2: 42-44

Vision And Mission Statement for Spirit of Christ Small Church Communities



All members of Spirit of Christ Catholic Community have the opportunity and are encouraged to become active members of Small Church Communities. These interdependent Small Church Communities help transform the parish into a **stronger community of faith**. This vision is consistent with the New Testament Scriptures and the traditions of the early church. Within these small communities of faith, individuals will be able to **experience the love, support and sense of community which fosters living the Gospel in our contemporary society**.

The Pastor, Staff, and Leadership body of Spirit of Christ Catholic Community authorize the Small Church Community Coordinator and Core Team to offer formational activities to support existing SCCs and to gather new Small Church Communities.

So that all parishes . . . may be truly communities of Christians, local ecclesial authorities ought to foster . . . small, basic or so-called "living" communities, where the faithful can Communicate the Word of God and express it in service and love to one another; these communities are true expressions of ecclesial communion and centers of evangelization, in communion with their pastors.

Christifideles Laici, John Paul II

SMALL CHURCH COMMUNITIES



Connecting Faith and Life



Spirit of Christ Catholic Community

7400 West 80th Avenue
Arvada, Colorado 80003

303-422-9173

www.spiritofchrist.org

What Is a Small Church Community?

A Small Church Community (SCC) is a small group of adults and, at times, children who **gather to reflect** on their lives in the light of the Gospel and to share their Christian faith through prayer, friendship and service. The early Christians gathered in small groups, most frequently in a home. That experience allowed a deep **sharing of faith and life**. Today SCCs facilitate that deep sharing in the presence of trusted friends. Relationships are formed in which sharing, listening, and genuine communication are nurtured. The sharing of faith **leads to action** on behalf of others. Although each SCC is unique in its membership, style and meeting format, every Small Church Community is involved in the following activities:

- Mutual support and faith sharing
- Prayer and ritual
- Ongoing learning in Scripture and Catholic Tradition that enables connections between faith and life
- Outreach beyond the SCC



Small community members are involved in numerous parish ministries as well as animators of activities and outreach projects born out of the faith sharing of their small communities.



Who Belongs?

Most small communities are diverse in membership with single and married, young, middle-age and older people gathering together. Children are very much a part of the experience of many small communities. **Family life is strengthened** by participation in Small Church Community. The rich diversity of age, gender, ethnicity and lifestyle present when the parish family gathers for Liturgy is also reflected in the membership of Small Church Communities. There are also small communities for young marrieds, mom's, young adults, men and women. **Over eight hundred people** are currently members of Spirit of Christ Small Church Communities.

How Do I Join?

Twice yearly all parishioners are invited to participate in an initial experience of Small Church Community generally during the fall and in the Lenten season. However, interested people can always be introduced to membership in existing small communities at any time during the year. For more information about joining a Small Church Community call the parish office at 303-422-9173 or email staff@spiritofchrist.org

How Often Do They Meet?

Most Small Church Communities gather in homes twice monthly on the evening of their choice. Some communities meet in the daytime at the parish center.



How Does The Parish Support SCCs?

- Information and activities generated by the Small Church Community Office and the members of the SCC Core Team
- The Small Church Community Newsletter
- Gatherings specifically designed for SCC members
- The Parish Library provides booklets, books and DVDs designed for SCCs
- SCC information in the parish bulletin, pulpit announcements, and on the parish website www.spiritofchrist.org