



Information for Small Group Leader Formation Series at St. John the Baptist

1. Thank you for considering the invitation to participate in the Small Group Leader Formation Series at our parish!
2. The 7 sessions will be held in the Gathering Place at the following times:
 - o Session 1: October 3, 7:00pm–8:30pm
 - o Session 2: October 10, 7:00pm–8:30pm
 - o Session 3: October 17, 7:00pm–8:30pm
 - o Session 4: October 24, 7:00pm–8:30pm
 - o Session 5: October 31, 7:00pm–8:30pm
 - o Session 6: November 7, 7:00pm–8:30pm
 - o Session 7: November 14, 7:00pm–8:30pm
3. Each session will last less than two hours, and will include times of prayer, teaching, and small group sharing.
4. Because this series is a formation toward leading small groups, and small group sharing is an important component of it, participants are expected to attend most, if not all sessions, in person. Recognizing that life happens, there will be an ability to “make up” missed sessions, but non-live participation is intended to be the exception, not the rule. If you know that you will need to miss more than two sessions, there will be future offerings of the training.
5. **Participation in the series does not commit you to lead a small group!** Upon the formation’s conclusion, there will be a mutual discernment, that will include Fr. Carlson, on whether each participant will lead a small group starting in Winter 2024 and what type of small group s/he might feel comfortable leading.
6. Furthermore, the formation will help discern other supporting leadership roles within the small group, such as hospitality or music ministry, as possible alternatives to being “the leader.”
7. We expect that different types of small groups will emerge. Examples include (but are not limited to): small groups among family, friends and neighbors as well as parish/pastoral groups among youth, marriage prep, RCIA, young adults, widows, etc.).
8. If you have questions, please contact Monica Benda at mbenda@stjohns-excelsior.org or 952-474-8868.
9. Please let us know by **September 25th**.