INTERGENERATIONAL CHURCH CULTURE

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A New Faith Forming Ecosystem

Intergenerational Faith Community

Online & Digital Faith Formation

Age Group/Generational Faith Formation

Missional Faith Formation

Family Faith Formation
Eight Faith Forming Processes

Faith formation is developed around the eight faith forming processes—providing both a framework for a comprehensive curriculum with age groups, generations, and families; and the content—knowledge and practices—of the Christian faith.
Throughout Scripture there is a pervasive sense that all generations were typically present when faith communities gathered for worship, for celebration, for feasting, for praise, for encouragement, for reading of Scripture, in times of danger, and for support and service. . . . To experience authentic Christian community and reap the unique blessings of intergenerationality, the generations must be together regularly and often—infants to octogenarians.

(Allen and Ross, 84)

Intergenerational Community

Intergenerational faith formation and whole community faith experiences are at the center of all faith formation, engaging all ages and generations in the life and events of church life and the Christian faith and participation in intergenerational faith experiences.
Intergenerational Community

We invite people into the way of life that embodies God’s love, justice, compassion, and reconciliation, by being, doing, and thinking about it together. The best curriculum for forming children, youth, and anyone else in Christian faith is guided participation in a community of practice where people are vibrantly, passionately risking themselves together in lives of faith in a world crying out for the love of Christ.

(Joyce Mercer)

Intergenerational Community

Guided participation in a community of practice puts a premium on both participation and practice. . . . We become Christian, taking on the identity of one who is a disciple of Jesus, by acting the way Christians act, and by talking the way Christians talk. Over time through practice, even our hearts and minds are formed in this way of life.

(Joyce Mercer)
Benefits

- Form and deepen Christian identity and commitment as people develop relationships and actively participate in faith communities that teach, model, and live the Christian tradition and way of life.
- Provide a curriculum for the whole community—Sunday worship, the lectionary and church year seasons, learning, service, ritual and sacraments, prayer, and more—that is a shared experience in faith and belonging for everyone.
- Strengthen relationships, connections, and community across generations; enhance their sense of belonging in the faith community; and provide valuable adult role models for children and adolescents.

Benefits

- Support families by surrounding them with a community of faith and engaging the whole family in a variety of faith-forming experiences together (caring relationships, celebrating, learning, praying, serving); and providing parents with opportunities to learn from Christians who are practicing their faith and raising faithful children.
- Strengthen the ability (confidence and competence) of parents and grandparents to promote religious socialization at home; be role models of faithful practice; and engage in faith practices at home and develop warm, affirming, and unconditionally supporting relationships between parents (and grandparents) and their children, teens, and young adults.
Intergenerational Community

1. **Caring:** Community building activities, storytelling, mentoring, social events
2. **Celebrating:** Sunday Worship, whole community sacramental celebrations, milestones celebrations, church year feasts and seasons
3. **Learning:** Intergenerational learning programs (weekly, monthly, small group); incorporating intergenerational learning into age group programming
4. **Praying:** Community prayer experiences, intergenerational prayer groups, spiritual guides/mentors
5. **Serving:** Intergenerational service projects and mission trips, church-wide service days

Intergenerational Church Life

- *The feasts and seasons of the church year* provide a natural rhythm and calendar to the curriculum: Advent and Christmas Seasons, Epiphany, Baptism of the Lord, Call of the Disciples, Ash Wednesday, Lenten Season, Holy Week, Easter, Easter Season, Pentecost, All Saints and All Souls, and remembrances of saints and holy people throughout the year.

- The *Revised Common and Catholic Lectionaries* provide a rich curriculum for the whole community with its three-year cycle of weekly readings from the Old Testament, Psalms, Epistles, and Gospels built around the seasons of the church year. The *Narrative Lectionary* is a four-year cycle of readings from September through following the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church.
Intergenerational Church Life

- **Ritual, milestone, and sacramental celebrations** provide events rich in theological meaning and faith practice that celebrate the faith journey throughout life: baptism, confirmation, first Bible, first communion, graduation, marriage, funerals, and much more.

- **Acts of service and justice**—locally and globally—provide a focus on mission to the world and put in action biblical and church teachings on service, justice, care for the earth.

Caring

*Cultivating caring relationships across generations in the congregation and community, becoming a life-giving spiritual community of faith, hope, and love.*

1. Intergenerational Caring Conversations
2. Intergenerational Community Building
3. Intergenerational Relationships in Existing Programs
4. Intergenerational Storytelling
5. Intergenerational Relationships through Mentoring
Celebrating

Worshiping God together through Sunday worship, rituals, sacraments, and the liturgical seasons that involves all of the ages and generations.

1. Intergenerational Sunday Worship
2. Whole Community Sacramental Celebrations
3. Milestones throughout Life
4. Church Year Feasts & Seasons

Praying

Nurturing the spiritual life of the whole community through the congregation’s prayer services, rituals, and blessings throughout the year.

1. Intergenerational Formation in Spiritual Practices
2. Intergenerational Prayer Stations
3. Intergenerational Prayer Partners & Spiritual Guides
4. Intergenerational Prayer Groups
Involving all ages and generations in service and mission to the world, especially to the poor and vulnerable, and in the works of justice and advocacy.

1. Intergenerational Mission Trips
2. Churchwide Service Day
3. Intergenerational Monthly Project
4. Intergenerational Service Nights
5. Intergenerational Service Projects

Engaging all ages and generations together in learning experiences that teach scripture and the Christian tradition, informing and forming disciples of all ages in Christian identity.

Intergenerational Learning
1. Weekly
2. Bi-Weekly
3. Monthly
4. Small Group & Large Group
Incorporating Intergenerational Learning in Church Life

1. Age Group Programming
2. Sacramental and Milestone Celebrations
3. Church Year Feasts & Seasons
4. Vacation Bible School
5. Mission Trips & Service Projects
6. Retreat and Camp Experiences

Intergenerational Learning

Engaging all ages and generations together in learning experiences that teach scripture and the Christian tradition, informing and forming disciples of all ages in Christian identity.

- Intergenerational Learning
  1. In-Common All Ages Experiences
  2. Parallel Learning
  3. Contributive Occasions
  4. Interactive Sharing

- Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly Models
- Small Group & Large Group Models
Elements of LOGOS

1. Bible Study
2. Family Time
3. Worship Skills
4. Recreation

GenOn Ministries
www.genonministries.org
Examples of IG Learning

1. As the faith formation curriculum for the whole community
2. In Lectionary-based catechesis
3. In sacramental preparation
4. In Vacation Bible School
5. In parent-child and parent-teen programs
6. In milestone celebrations
7. In intergenerational service projects
8. In liturgical season celebrations
9. In a retreat experience or parish mission

Curriculum for the Whole Church
Curriculum for the Whole Church

Potential Themes
1. Church Year & Scripture
2. Creed
3. Sacraments
4. Morality
5. Justice
6. Prayer
7. Christian Practices
8. Bible
9. Mission & Ministry
**Topical**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advent</th>
<th>Jesus the Messiah</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christmas – Epiphany</td>
<td>Divinity of Jesus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lent</td>
<td>Journey with Jesus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Death of Jesus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Season</td>
<td>Resurrection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pentecost</td>
<td>Mission of the Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Readings</td>
<td>Ministry of Jesus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Readings</td>
<td>Identity of Christ</td>
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**Topical**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baptism</th>
<th>Celebrations of Baptism, Baptism of the Lord, Easter Season</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confirmation</td>
<td>Celebration of Confirmation, Pentecost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eucharist</td>
<td>Sunday, First Eucharist, Holy Thursday, Corpus Christi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
<td>Lent, Reconciliation Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anointing of the Sick</td>
<td>Celebration of Sacrament, February Lectionary Readings (Cycle B)</td>
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<td>Marriage</td>
<td>World Marriage Day, Holy Family Sunday</td>
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<td>Orders</td>
<td>Vocations Day</td>
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Connecting Faith, Worship, and Life

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish uses a liturgy-centered, lifelong, and intergenerational approach to Catholic faith formation. The goal is to help and support everyone who wishes to become a better disciple by integrating faith, worship, and life in light of the Gospel. Since this is an ongoing, lifelong task, we invite EVERYONE in the parish to participate. All are welcome!

Liturgical

September: Mass for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October: Mass for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
November: Mass for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
December: Mass for the 2nd Sunday of Advent
January: Mass for the Baptism of the Lord
February: Mass for the 1st Sunday of Lent
March: Mass for Palm Sunday
April: Mass for the 4th Sunday of Easter
May: Mass for Holy Trinity Sunday
Milestones

- Birth / Baptism
- Starting School Year / Blessing Backpacks
- First Communion
- Receiving a first Bible
- Confirmation
- Graduation (HS, College)
- Engagement
- Wedding
- Retirement
- Death / Funeral

Christian Practices

- Caring for the Body
- Celebrating Life
- Discernment
- Dying Well
- Eating Well
- Forgiving
- Hospitality
- Keeping Sabbath
- Managing Household Life
- Participating in Community
- Praying
- Reading the Bible
- Transforming the World.
Connected Faith Formation

IG Learning

Online Life

Church Life

Home Life

Extend an IG Program

Talk About It: Conversation Questions

Learn More: Watch a Video, Listen to a Talk, Read an Article

Gathered Program

Pray Devotions, Bible Reading, Table Prayer

Family & Parents Center: How-to helps (video, audio, print) Family Faith Practices

Share What Your Learning: Write a Blog Entry, Create & Share a Video or Project

Live: Action Project for the Month
Intergenerational Learning: Practice

Learning Process

Meal and Community Building (30 minutes)
Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience (20-30)
Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience (75-90)
  ➢ Option 1. Whole Group (together)
  ➢ Option 2. Age Group (parallel)
  ➢ Option 3. Activity Center
Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application (15-20)
Part 5. Closing Prayer (5-10)
Meal & Community Building
Part 1. Gathering

Part 2. All Ages Learning
Part 2. All Ages Learning

- Learning activities for everyone using small groups or table groups
- Intergenerational learning activities and age-appropriate learning activities for families with children, teens, young adults, and adults
- Lead facilitator or team guides the entire group through the learning program—giving presentations and leading activities

Part 3. Whole Group Format

The Whole Group Format provides...

- Learning activities for everyone using small groups or table groups
- Intergenerational learning activities and age-appropriate learning activities for families with children, teens, young adults, and adults
- Lead facilitator or team guides the entire group through the learning program—giving presentations and leading activities
Part 3. Age Group Format

The Age Group Format provides parallel, age-appropriate learning activities on the same theme for…

1. young children (4 and 5 year olds)
2. families with children (grades 1-5)
3. adolescents (middle school and high school)
4. young adults
5. adults
Part 3. Learning Center Format

The Learning Activity Center Format provides...

- Learning stations or centers with structured learning activities on a common theme
- Age-specific or intergenerational
- Facilitated by leaders
Part 4. Sharing & Application
Part 4. Sharing & Application

Closing Prayer
Example: Called to Pray

1. Gathering and Opening Prayer
2. All Ages Learning: I'm Ready God, Where Are You? (Drama)
3. In-Depth Learning: Paths of Prayer
   - Activity 1: Creating a Space for Prayer
   - Activity 2: Praying with Scripture
   - Activity 3: Praying with the Psalms
   - Activity 4: Intercessory Prayer
   - Activity 5: The Jesus Prayer
4. Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application
5. Part 5. Closing Prayer

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Example: Identity of Christ

1. Gathering and Opening Prayer
2. All Ages Learning: Gospel Portraits of Jesus (multimedia experience)
3. Age-Appropriate Learning: Exploring the Gospel Portraits of Jesus Christ
   - Families with Children Learning Plan
   - Adolescent Learning Plan
   - Adult Learning Plan
4. Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application
5. Part 5. Closing Prayer
Example: Jesus Son of God

What is Jesus saying/doing?
What is Jesus teaching us about the qualities of God?

**Activity Centers**

1. Jesus is Born (Infancy Narratives)
2. Jesus Is God’s Beloved Son (Baptism and Transfiguration)
3. Jesus Teaches Parables of the Kingdom of God
4. Jesus Heals People
5. Jesus Forgives Sin
6. Jesus Raises People from the Dead
7. Jesus Feeds People

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Example: Jesus Son of God

**Methods for Exploring Gospel Stories**

- Presenting the Gospel story: proclamation, reading, media
- Dramatic presentations & role plays
- Creative art activities
- Storytelling & Scripture imagination activities
- Music
- Prayer and ritual
- Group discussion & family conversations
Example: Jesus Son of God

1. Jesus is Born: Creative Activity & Discussion
2. Jesus Is God’s Beloved Son (Baptism and Transfiguration): Ritual/Prayer Activity
3. Jesus Teaches Parables of the Kingdom of God: Rewriting Parables for Today; Creative Art Activity
4. Jesus Heals People: Role Play/Dramatic Reading, Praying for the Sick
5. Jesus Forgive Sin: Drama and Reflection Activity
6. Jesus Raises People from the Dead: Dramatic Re-enactment; Creative Activity
7. Jesus Feeds People: Imagination Activity and Prayer Activity