

Designing
Children &
Family Faith
Formation for
the Post-
Pandemic World



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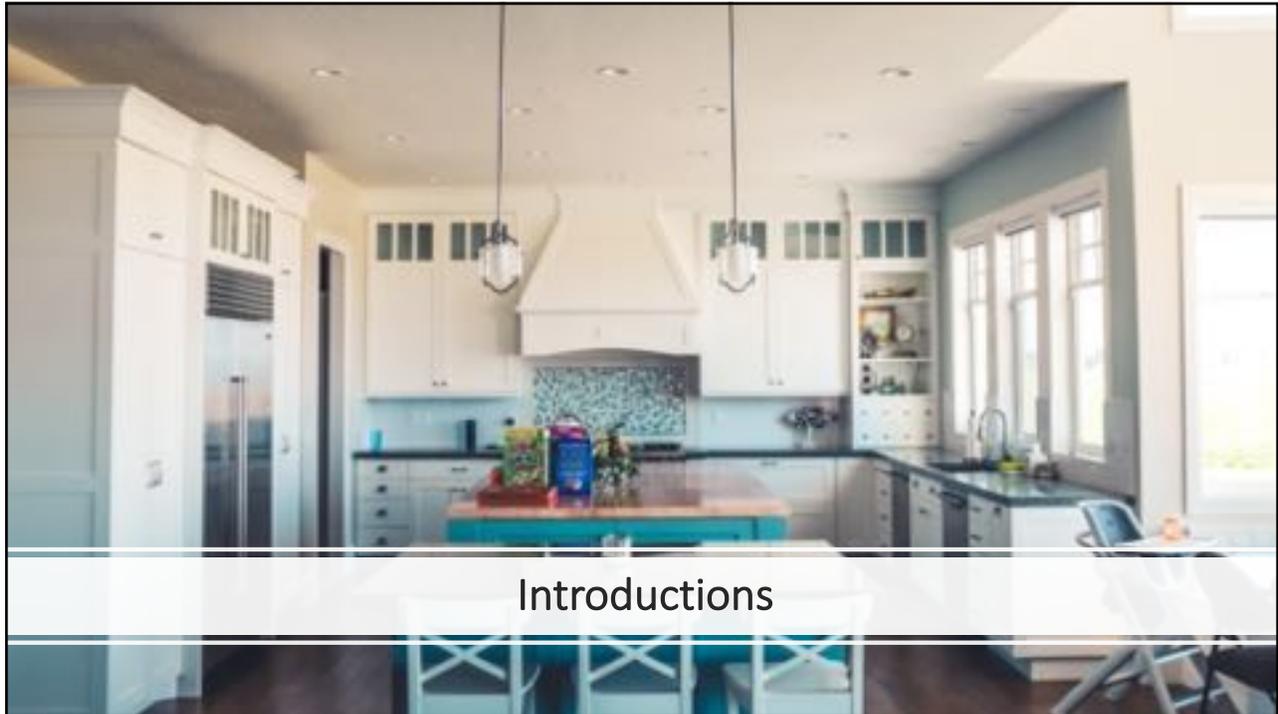
Resources

www.LifelongFaith.com

Go to “Hybrid” under
Webinar



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What to Expect

- Introductions
- Overview: The Vision of Family Faith Formation
- Research: Parents, Practices, and Relationships
- Guiding Principles
- Theology: The Call of Parenthood
 - Reimagining Parent Sessions/Meeting
- Strategies for Faith Formation Today
- What did 2020-21 Teach Us?
 - Playlists, Electives, and More
- Designing a Family Friendly Approach
 - Where to start? What's next?
 - Storytelling



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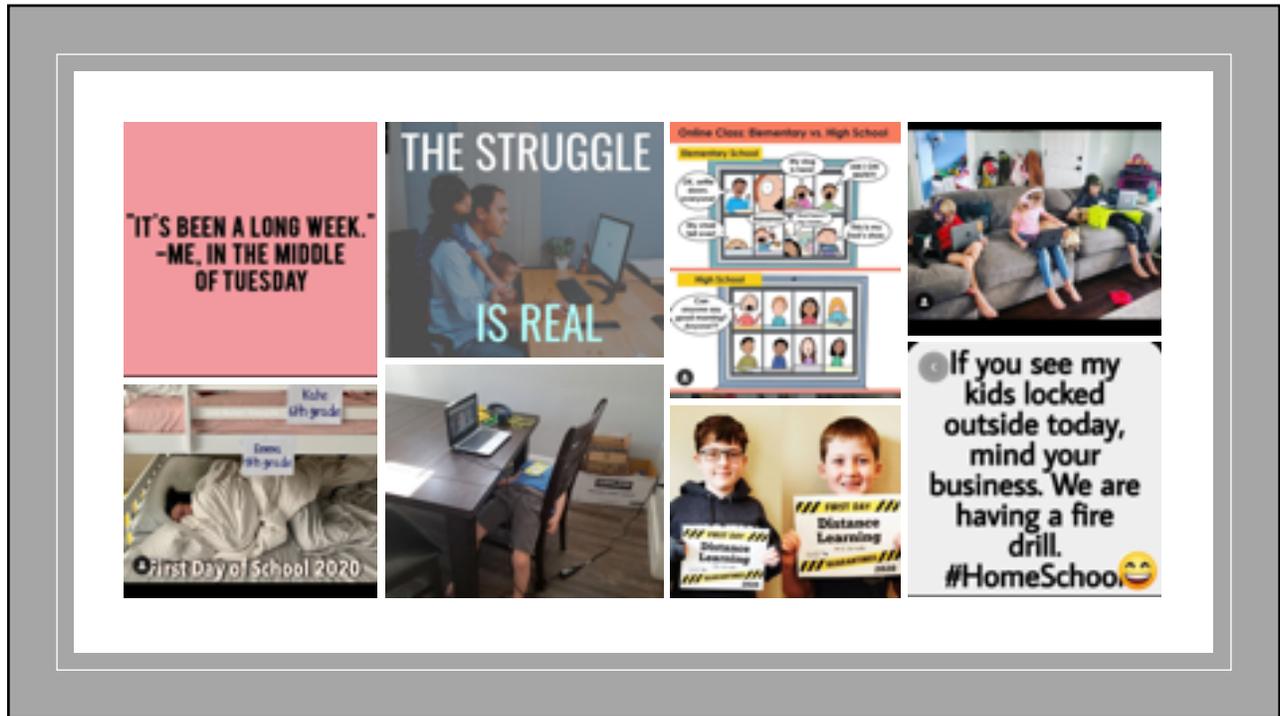


...a glimpse into family life in 2020-21

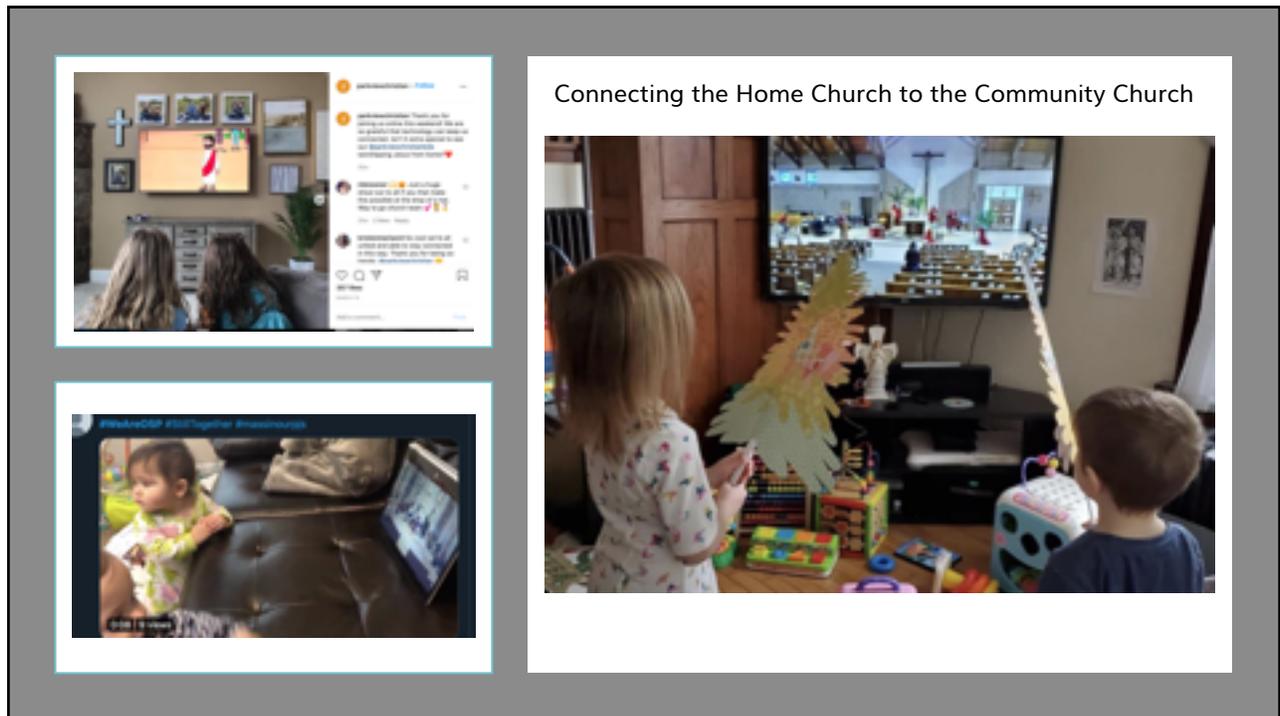
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Where Are We Today?

Old Order

Disruption

Liminal

New Order

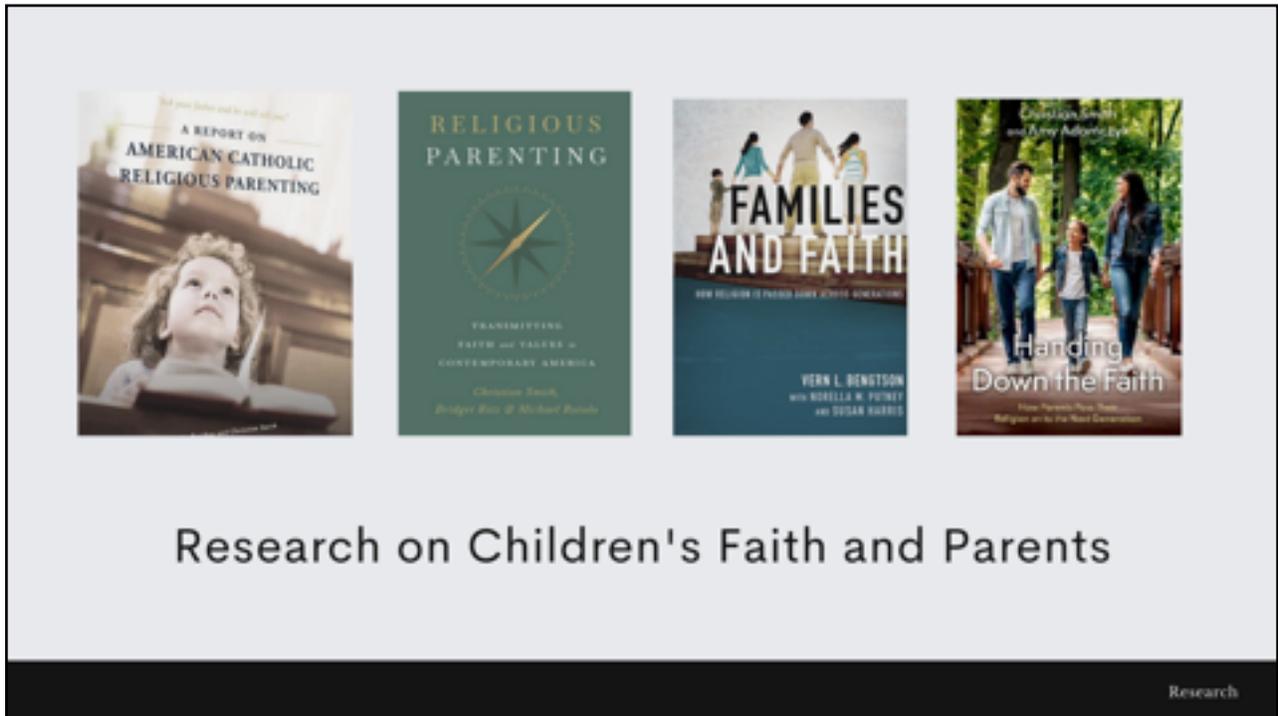
Designing Hybrid Faith Formation for the Post-Pandemic World

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Research on Children's Faith and Parents

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Research Finding #1

Parents are the most significant influence on the religious and spiritual outcomes of young people.

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One of the most basic suggestions of our findings is that young adults arrive at a sense of their fundamental identity and worldview not by weighing all possible intellectual arguments for and against a proposed way of life, but rather by roughly adopting the worldview of those mentors who left the deepest impression upon them—and who loved them and cared for them the most...

...It should come as no surprise, then, that the emergence of the new generation of dedicated young Catholics will rise and fall with the choices of their parents.

American Catholic Religious Parenting

~ Smith and Bartkus



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We know parents matter most.

Recent studies on religion point to the importance of parents in the spiritual formation of their children. Parental involvement in a child's faith increases not only a child's identification with their faith as they grow, but their commitment to the faith, and their practice of that faith as they reach adulthood.

Research

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Research Finding #2

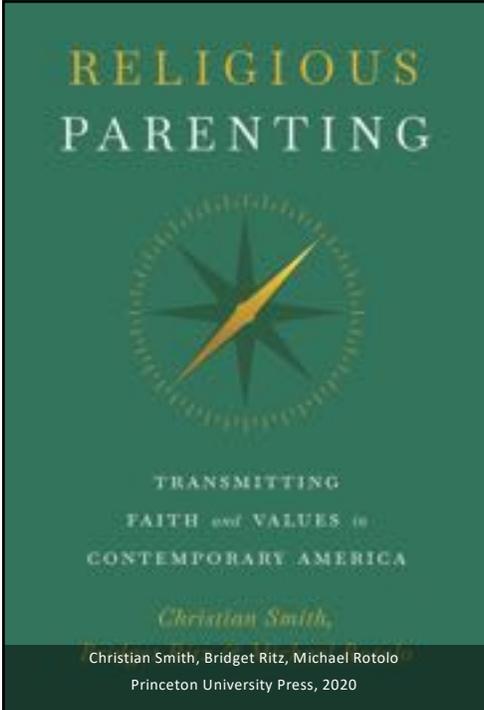
The primary way by which Christian identity becomes rooted in children's lives are the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities.

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1. Reading the Bible as a family and encouraging young people to read the Bible regularly
2. Praying together as a family and encouraging young people to pray personally
3. Serving people in need as a family and supporting service activities by young people
4. Eating together as a family
5. Having family conversations about faith
6. Talking about faith, religious issues, questions, doubts
7. Ritualizing family moments and milestone experiences
8. Celebrating holidays and church year seasons at home
9. Providing moral instruction
10. Being involved in a faith community and participating regularly in Sunday worship as a family

PRACTICE CENTERED PROCESS

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RELIGIOUS PARENTING

- We have discovered through research that certain faith practices make a significant difference in nurturing the faith of children and teens at home.
- **“Raising religious children should thus primarily be a practice-centered process, not chiefly a didactic teaching program. Parents modeling religious practices is primary, and explaining belief systems is secondary”**

Christian Smith, Bridget Ritz, Michael Rotolo
Princeton University Press, 2020

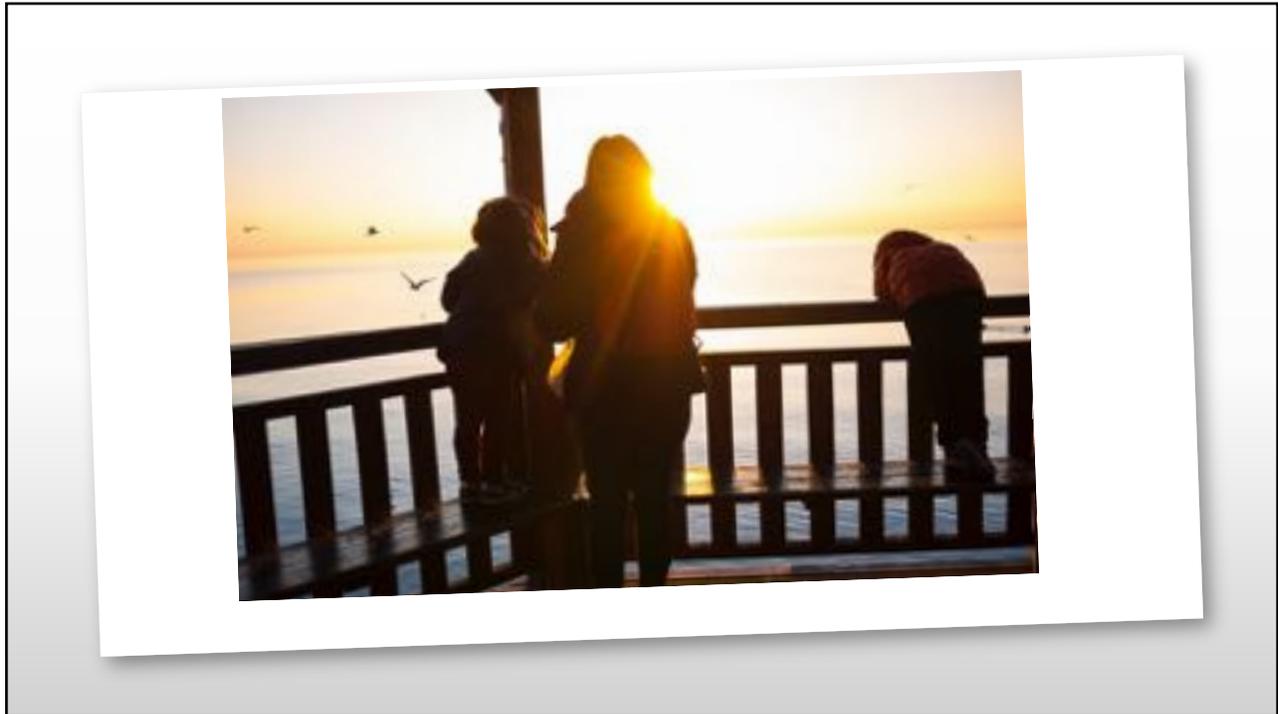
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Research Finding #3

The family is the primary community where Christian faith practices are nurtured *and* practiced.

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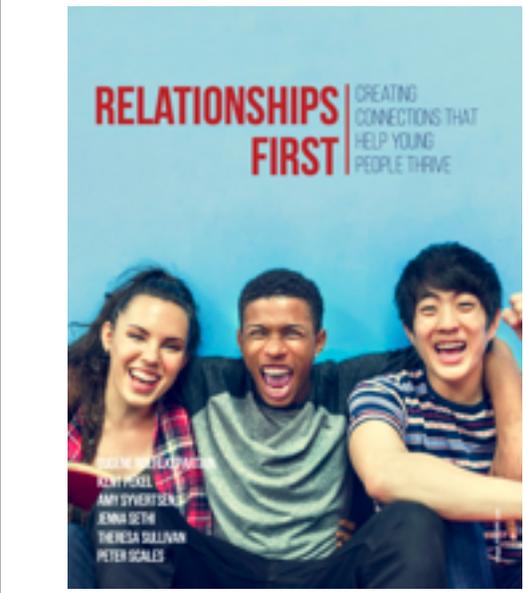


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Research Finding #4

The quality of a parent's relationships with their children or teens and the parenting style they practice make a significant difference in faith transmission.

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RELATIONSHIPS FIRST | CREATING CONNECTIONS THAT HELP YOUNG PEOPLE THRIVE

KRISTIN WEIRICH
AMY SYVERTSEN
JENNA SETHI
THERESA SULLIVAN
PETER SCALIS

THE CENTRALITY OF RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are at the heart of what youth need to learn, grow, and thrive.

Resilience: "Whether the burdens come from the hardships of poverty, the challenges of parental substance abuse or serious mental illness, the stresses of war, the threats of recurrent violence or chronic neglect, or a combination of factors, the single most common finding is that children who end up doing well have had at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive parent, caregiver, or other adult."
— National Scientific Council on the Developing Child

Growth: "Supportive relationships are critical 'medicinal' of development. They provide an environment of reinforcement, good modeling, and constructive feedback for physical, intellectual, and social growth."
— National Research Council

Social-emotional skills: "Relationships are the soil in which children's SEL [social-emotional learning] skills grow."
— Jones & Bouffard

Education: "Positive relationships with adults are perhaps the single most important ingredient in promoting positive student development."
— Pianta, Hammre, & Allen

Civic life: "No society can long sustain itself unless its members have learned the sensitivities, motivations, and skills involved in assisting and caring for other human beings."
— Bronfenbrenner

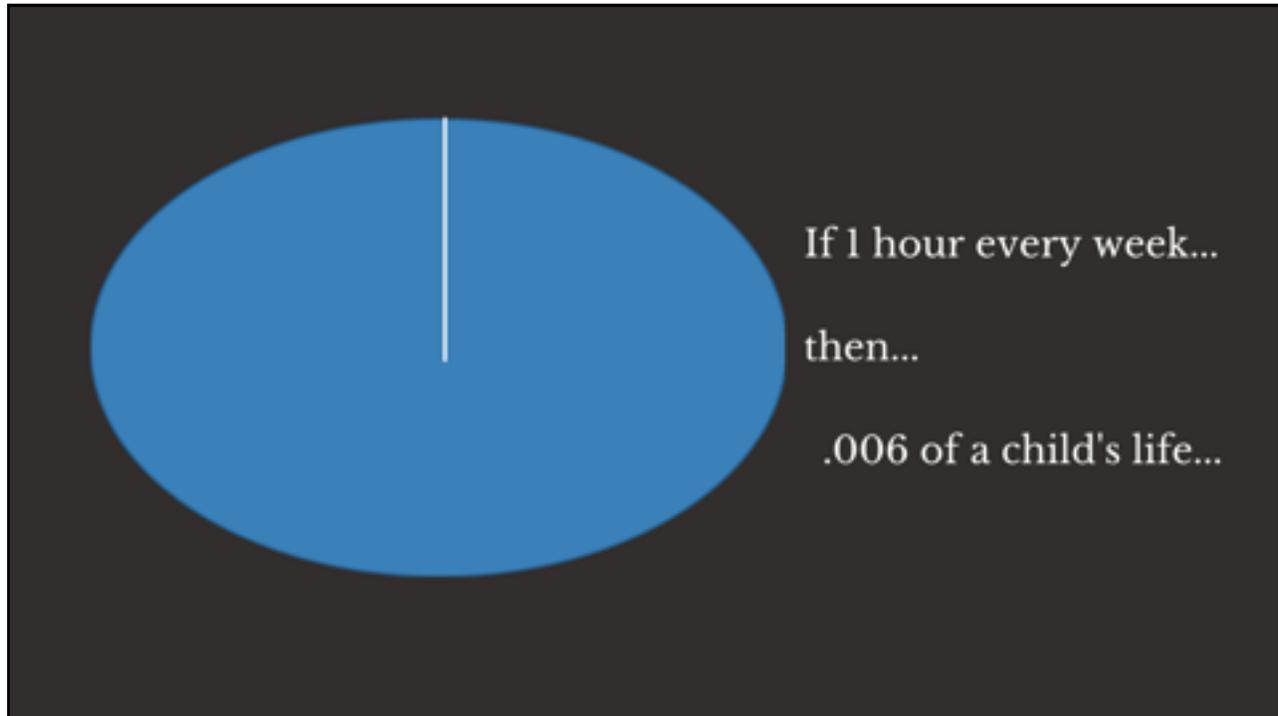
Research Institute

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This is all to say that the definitive causal agents in the religious and spiritual outcomes of American youth are neither clergy nor youth ministers, neither educators nor the voices of popular culture and media, but parents.

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Research over the past 20 years continues to affirm this truth. We know the factors that make a significant difference in promoting faith in children and adolescents.

- Parents' personal faith and practice
- A close and warm parent-child relationship
- Parent modeling and teaching a religious faith
- Parent involvement in church life and Sunday worship
- Grandparent religious influence and relationship
- Family conversations about faith
- Family faith religious practices including:
 - praying, reading the Bible, serving others, and celebrating holidays and rituals.



Key Factors

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Research says these two things make the greatest impact:



GOD TALK

Faith conversations. Giving parents language to talk about love, God, faith, and prayer from the earliest days of their children's lives makes a difference.



FAITH PRACTICE

Accompanying families, offering opportunities and experiences in faith practices allows parents to create the traditions that continue into the next generation.

Research

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How have congregations responded to the need to support families this last year?



GOD TALK

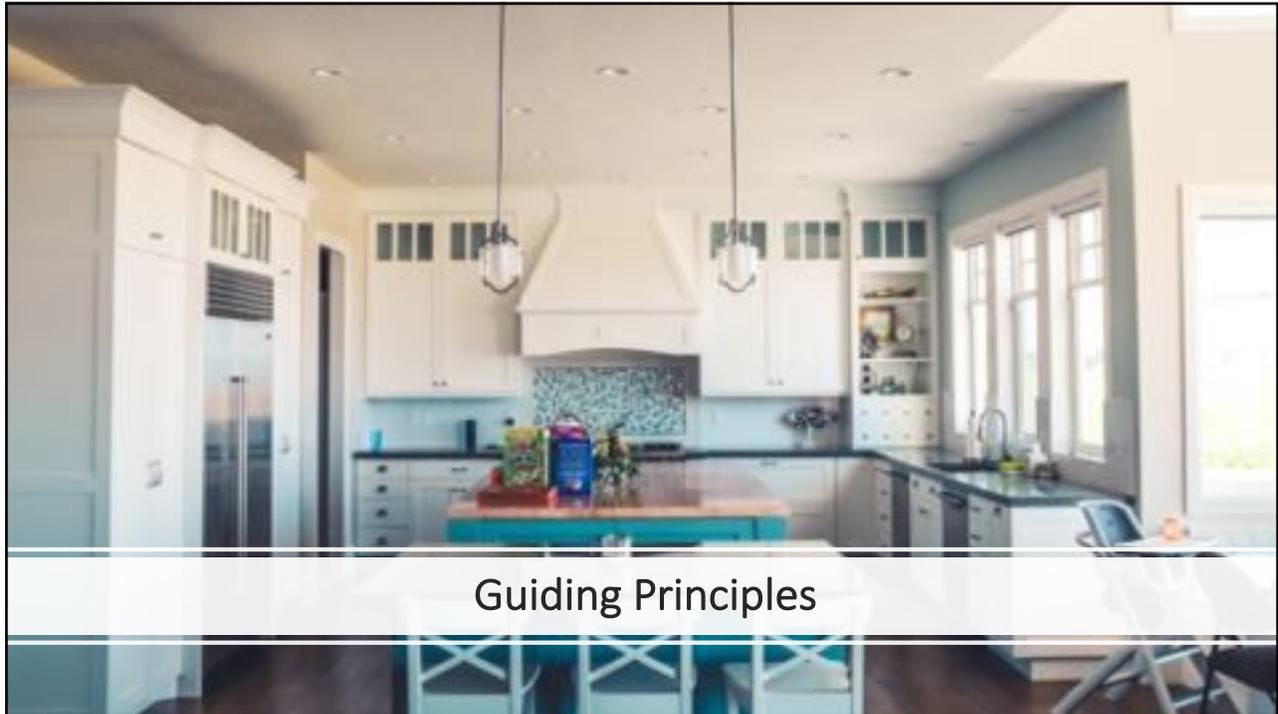


FAITH PRACTICE

This is where many churches have excelled this year!

Research

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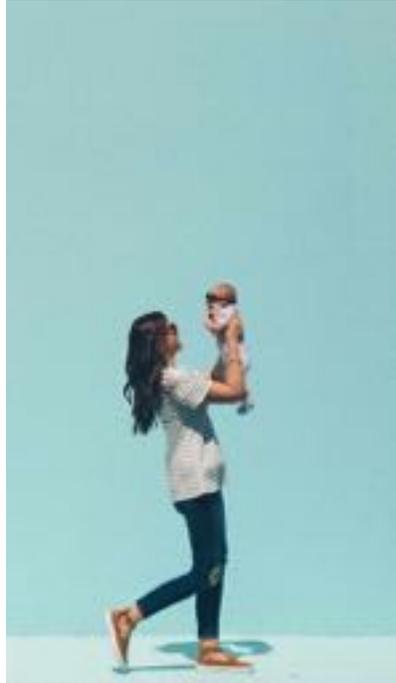
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Family Faith Formation: Guiding Principles

- God is actively present in family life.
- Parents and the family are the most important religious influence on religious transmission.
- Faith is formed through the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it.
- Faith is formed when there is a substantial investment of thought, time, and intimacy by parents in faith transmission.
- Faith is formed in relationships – at home and in the intergenerational faith community.
- Faith is formed in developmentally-appropriate ways over time.

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SHIFTS IN FAITH FORMATION

<p>From an emphasis on...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs • Parenting as a strategy • Pathologizing or idealizing families • “Passing on” the faith • Serving families • Congregation-centered ministries 	<p>Toward an emphasis on...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships • Parenting as a relationship • Tapping their strengths and resilience • “Living into” the faith • Empowering families • Community-centered ministries
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WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO REIMAGINE THE CONVERSATION?

- What would it look like to REALLY partner with parents?
- Parent orientations, parent meetings, parent sessions - all reimagined!
- What matters most to parents?
- What happens when you ask them to talk about their children?

Guiding Principles

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Reimagine

- Parent Orientations
- Parent Affinity Groups
- Parent Formation



What if?

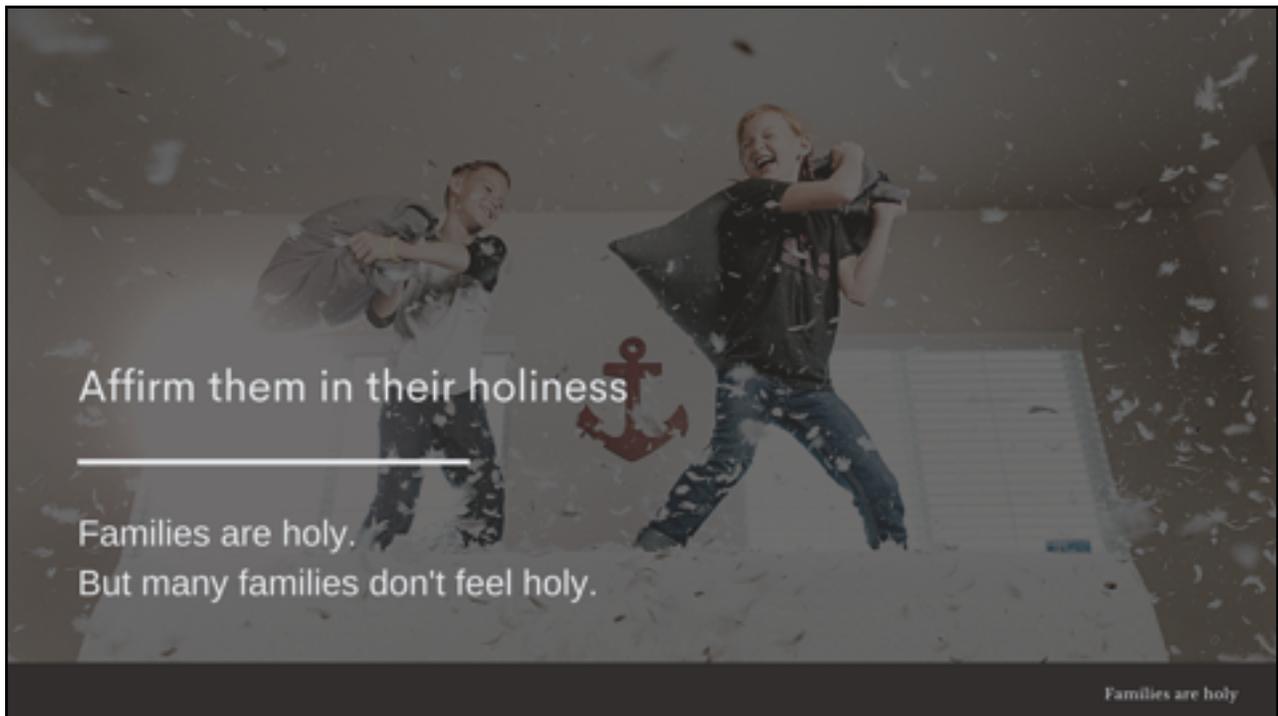
- What if we let parents know that WE know parenting is the hardest job in the world?
- What if we met them – wherever they are?
- What if, when we gathered, we asked them about their children? Asked them to tell their stories?
- What if we accompanied them in new and creative ways, especially now when many need that support?

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Video links in resources section at the end of the PowerPoint

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Parents are becoming more like Christ in the ways they do the things he taught us to do:



Sacrifice Forgive Heal Pray Love and Teach Others

Remind parents what they're already doing right! Affirm them in their holiness, and in the ways they are responding to God's call.

Families are holy

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GET PARENTS COMFORTABLE

How many children do you have?

What are their ages?

What has most surprised you about parenting? Or about becoming a parent?

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Be an authentic witness.

Be vulnerable. Be willing to share your own stories. As a parent, as a son or daughter, as a grandparent or aunt or uncle, as someone whose life has been transformed by children.

Build trust.



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Theology: The Call of Parenthood

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Remember the first time you held your child?

- What did you feel?
- What did you think?
- What were your dreams?
- What were your fears?

Parenting as Calling

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Parenthood

- Calls us more into who we were created to be
- Calls forth characteristics and values that lead us (or can lead us) closer to God
- Teaches us about ourselves and about God

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My Spiritual Directors

My children taught me to pray.

really, really pray!

My children taught me to surrender

Children teach us quickly we are not in control.

My children taught me to be present.

Pay attention, Mom.

Parenting as Calling

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My oldest daughter taught me to pray

REALLY REALLY PRAY

Surgeries (1, 12, 23)
The first to go to school
The first to go away to college
Moving away for real



Parenting as Calling

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My son taught me to surrender

"DON'T WORRY MAMA, I GOT THIS!"

Always the adventurer!
Climbing the highest mountain
(or tallest piece of furniture)

Now, in the Army, ranger qualified, he jumps out of
perfectly good airplanes.

When he deployed to the Middle East I really learned
about surrendering to God.



Parenting as Calling

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My youngest teaches me to be present.

HE CAME THAT WE MIGHT HAVE LIFE - ABUNDANT LIFE.

My baby never remembers yesterday and couldn't care less about
tomorrow, but today she will live fully.

This is a lesson I am still learning, but God gave me this child that I
might learn to be fully present - to my children,
but also to Him.

She trusts and she goes for it.

And she doubts and has to seek Him.

Living in the moment means the highs are high,
but it can also lead to some pretty low moments.



Parenting as Calling

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So what have you learned in this call as a parent?

What have you learned about:

- Life?
- Love?
- Faith?
- Prayer?
- God?



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Called by our baptism

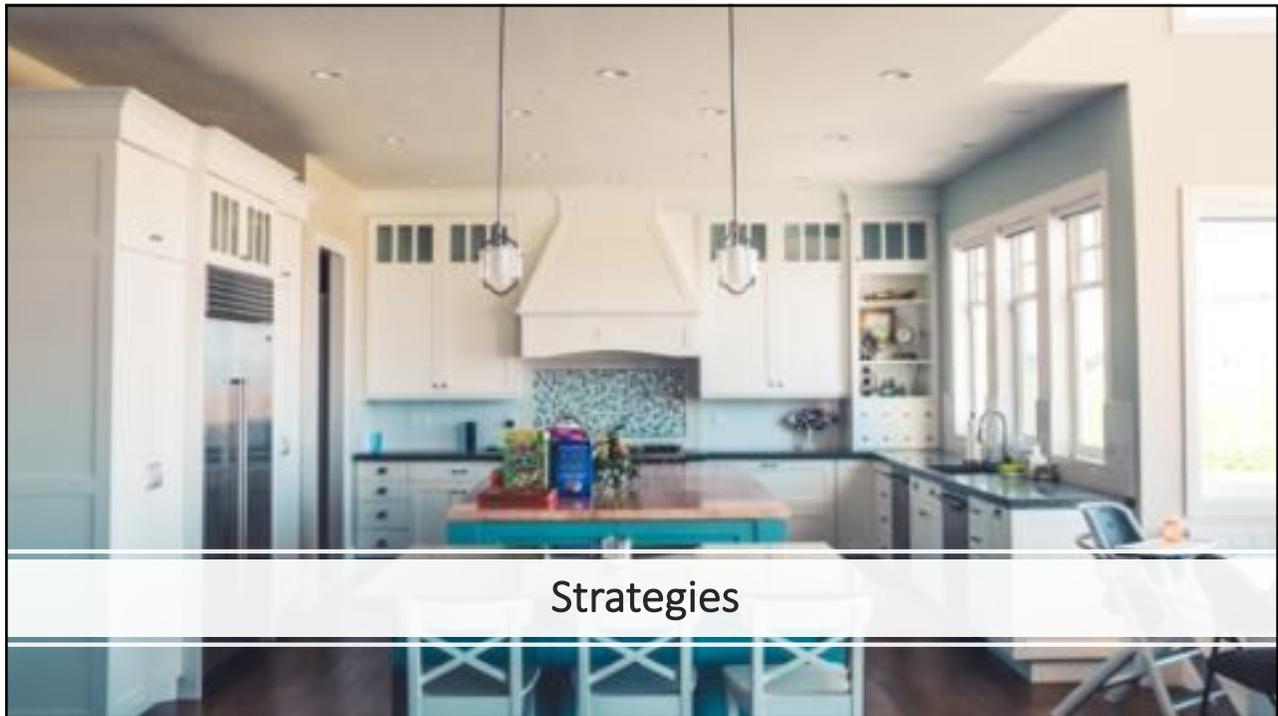
Called as parents

Called to follow Christ

Called to lead others

Parenting IS Disciple-making

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Practical Strategies

- Family Experiments
- Faith Practice of the Month
- Connect to Sunday worship
- Seasons @Home and @Church
- Whole Family Programs
- Sacraments & Milestones
- Family Life Skills
- Parent Programming
- Family Faith formation Website

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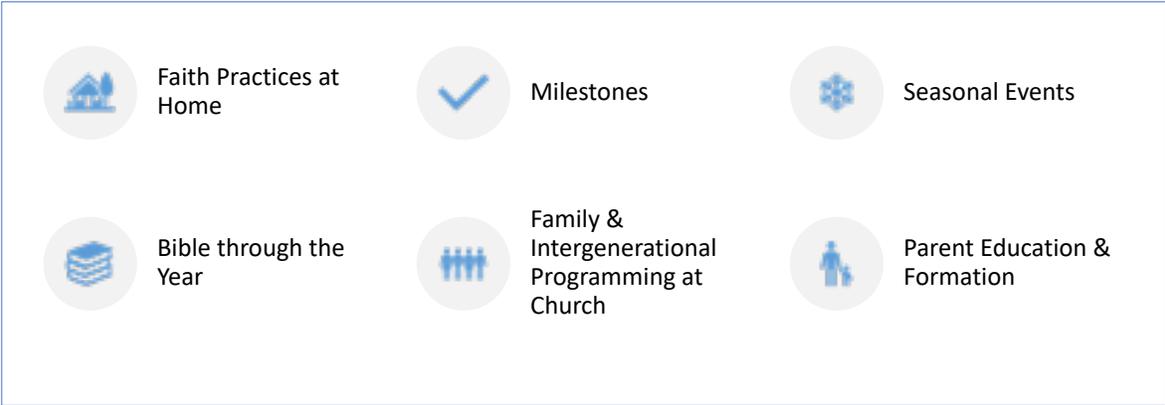
Family Rhythms: Think Like a Family

1. *Through the day:* mealtimes, car times, morning and bedtime, exits and entries, family sharing times, waiting for... times
2. *Through key family moments:* good times and hard times, times of joy and sorrow
3. *Through the year:* church year seasons, holidays, rituals and celebrations—birthdays, anniversaries, etc.
4. *Through the lifecycle:* milestones and rites of passage

Finding the spaces and times in family life

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Strategies across Age Groups



- Faith Practices at Home
- Milestones
- Seasonal Events
- Bible through the Year
- Family & Intergenerational Programming at Church
- Parent Education & Formation

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Designing Faith Formation

When?

-  *Through the day:* mealtimes, car times, morning and bedtime, exits and entries, family sharing times, waiting for... times
-  *Through key family moments:* good times and hard times, times of joy and sorrow
-  *Through the year:* church year seasons, holidays, rituals and celebrations—birthdays, anniversaries, etc.
-  *Through the lifecycle:* milestones and rites of passage
-  *Finding the spaces and times in family life*

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Designing Faith Formation

Where?

-  Independent
-  Mentored
-  Small Group
-  Large Group
-  Church Community (intergenerational)
-  Community and World

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Designing Faith Formation

How? Learning Styles

-  Microlearning and episodic learning experiences
-  Lots of activity-based group work
-  Fast-moving, interactive activities
-  Visual learning (images, videos)
-  Technology enabled learning using their own devices for learning
-  Collaborative learning environments with peer interaction
-  Entertainment and learning at the same time

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Designing Faith Formation

How? Methods & Media

-  Print
-  Audio / Podcasts (created / curated)
-  Video (created and curated)
-  TV and Movies and YouTube
-  Online: website, social media
-  Families Together Experiences
-  Church or Community-wide Projects

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Designing Faith Formation



How? Digital

Gathered using Online Content: A gathered event or program that uses online content as part of the design of the event or program

Gathered with Online Content: A gathered event or program that provides online content/activities to extend the learning from the program

Online and Gathered Content: Online learning focused on presenting the content of the program combined with face-to-face, gathered sessions to discuss, practice, & apply the content.

Mostly Online Content: A mostly online program with opportunities for regular interaction in face-to-face, gathered settings

Fully Online Content: An online program with all learning done online and limited face-to-face experiences

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Strategies across Age Groups



Faith Practices at Home



Milestones



Seasonal Events



Bible through the Year

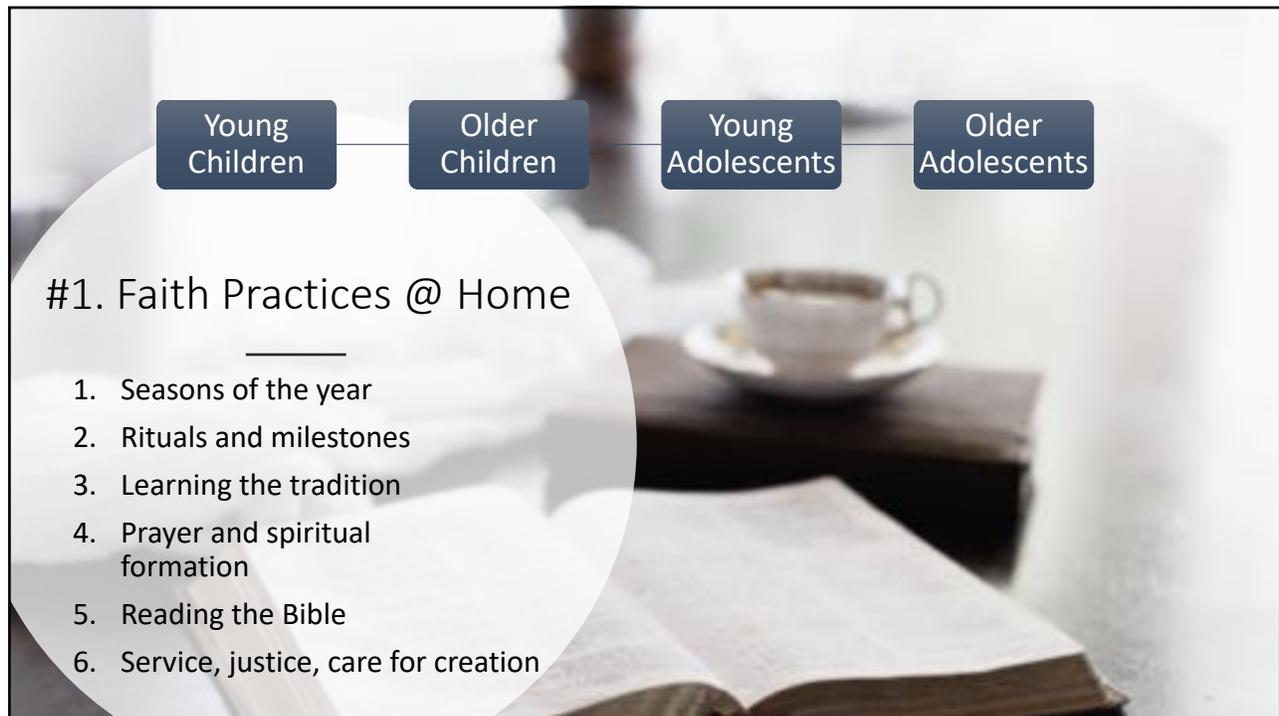


Family & Intergenerational Programming at Church



Parent Education & Formation

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Young Children

Older Children

Young Adolescents

Older Adolescents

#1. Faith Practices @ Home

1. Seasons of the year
2. Rituals and milestones
3. Learning the tradition
4. Prayer and spiritual formation
5. Reading the Bible
6. Service, justice, care for creation

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#2. Milestones throughout Life



- Birth / Baptism
- Baptism anniversaries
- First prayers
- First Bible stories
- Starting school year
 - Receiving a first Bible*
- First Communion
- Confirmation
- Graduation

**Alternative – As an alternative, or in addition to: Parents/Godparents/Grandparents receive children's bible at Baby's birth/baptism, with ideas about sharing bible stories as the child grows.*

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Forming Faith through Milestones

a ritual celebration or a blessing marking the milestone with the whole church community

a home ritual celebration or blessing marking the milestone

a learning program, often for the whole family or intergenerational, that prepares the individual and the whole family for the milestone and for faith practice at home

a tangible, visible reminder or symbol of the occasion being marked

resources to support continuing faith growth and practice after the milestone

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Forming Faith through Milestones

Preparing

- What types of experiences, programming, activities, and resources will you develop to prepare people for the event?

Experiencing

- How will you design the event? How will you engage age groups, families, and the faith community?

Living

- How will you sustain/extend the event? What types of experiences, programs, activities, and resources will you offer people?

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Sacraments & Milestones

- Birth / Baptism
- Baptism anniversaries
- First prayers
- First Bible stories
- Starting school year
- Receiving a first Bible
- First Communion
- Confirmation
- Graduation



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Graduation Milestone Moment Online

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
— Eleanor Roosevelt

Introduction: It is not possible for families and friends to physically gather together to celebrate a special occasion. This Graduation Milestone Moment Online provides detailed resources, suggestions, and a discussion guide to use for an online celebration of a graduation. A graduation gifting store is offered as a possible impulsive and ahead gift to reward the graduate of the online celebration. Just because families cannot get together in person does not mean they can not still share the joy of this important life milestone and recognize God's promise to the moment.

Desired Outcomes:

- Provide a discussion guide for faith-filled conversations to have online with the graduate to recognize God in this moment.
- Celebrate this special time in one's life when graduation-occasions are being cancelled or rescheduled due to mandatory stay-at-home restrictions.
- Experience prayers and blessings from family and friends that provide a memorable moment for the graduate.
- Send messages of love and support by creatively using online resources that surround the graduate with the love and grace of God.

Suggestions:

- Be creative! Send gifts ahead of time to the graduate that can be opened while you are meeting.
- Use Zoom, Google, House Party, or other online venue to meet with family and friends.
- Send a picture that all can use as a fun virtual background to celebrate this occasion.
- Design a whole show of pictures (maybe set to music) of the graduate.
- Invite all participants to pre-record a message for the graduate and share the videos during the time you meet.
- Build a gamehow with multiple-choice questions about the graduate's life for all to have fun guessing the correct answer. A great site for this is kahoot.com.
- Provide a graduation cap and gown the graduate can wear as a special T-shirt.



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Coronavirus Conversations Discussion Guide

The most resource about anything, but for something to present and appreciate with meaningful conversation between us!

— Philip James et al.

Coronavirus Conversations Discussion Guide

Begin by sharing a recent milestone (high and/or rather low in your lives) and then use the outline below to talk about faith and God's presence in this moment.

Caring Conversations

Discuss these thoughts and questions:

- What concerns you about the coronavirus pandemic?
- With resources, grace, and discernment, how do you spend your time?
- When visiting someone are essential, in what way can you worship in your home?

Discussions

Read the following:

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. In all these things the Gentiles strive, but they are vain. For the life of the body is more than food and drink, and the body more than clothing. Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither sow nor reap, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. For if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is also today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—sons of his Father? Therefore do not worry. (Matthew 6:25-34)

- What message do you hear in this reading related to the other the coronavirus back on our lives?
- How has the coronavirus impacted your faith life?

Service

There are many who are elderly or immune compromised. During this time of the coronavirus pandemic, it is important they stay at home and be quarantined from others. In what way can you help a neighbor who may be in need of food or supplies at this time?

Writings and Traditions

Social Distancing Milestone Moment Online

Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church, too.

"Hope is the brightest when it shines from faith"

— Sir Walter Scott

The coronavirus pandemic has changed much of our "normal routines." Schools are closed for the rest of the year with no or postponed plans for graduations. Sporting events, plays and concerts have been cancelled. We are learning how to social distance as we take walks, go to the store, or drop off something for a friend at their house. The "stay-at-home" mandate has caused fear, anxiety, and a sense of isolation for many. One way to give our hope and good courage is to be sustained by our faith. There are a place where we can experience our faith. We can pray, read the Bible and have faith-filled conversations with people we live with or people we connect with online or on the phone.

Intentional Outcomes:

- Provide a discussion guide for both faith conversations with family and friends
- Talk about Wisconsin Right and Values Lives as a church how to support one another.
- Experience scripture reading, prayer and a blessing from one another.
- Find something that brings you joy and encourages others through messages.
- Give one a sense of peace in the midst of isolation and an unknown future.

Suggestions:

- Experience this initiative with others in your home or invite family and friends to join you in an online gathering.
- Consider doing this initiative during a meal or as a snack time for all invited.
- Journal your feelings and discussions about your time together as a memory for the future.
- Repeat the caring conversations in the Discussion Guide in a few weeks to reflect on changes.
- Light a candle each day "stay-at-home" time and say the Writings and Traditions response, prayer, and blessing found in the Discussion Guide.
- Consider doing this initiative with different family and friends over the next few weeks whether via an online gathering or on the phone for those without an internet connection.

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Discovering God's Calling in Life Transitions

MORE MILESTONES

Adults are motivated when facing life transitions. They seek learning and support to cope with changes in their lives that give rise to new developmental tasks.

Starting or Changing a New Job/Career
Work & Career

Becoming a Young Adult
Becoming a Married Couple
Living an Intentional Single Life
Starting a New Home Life

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#3 Celebrating Seasons: Calendar Year

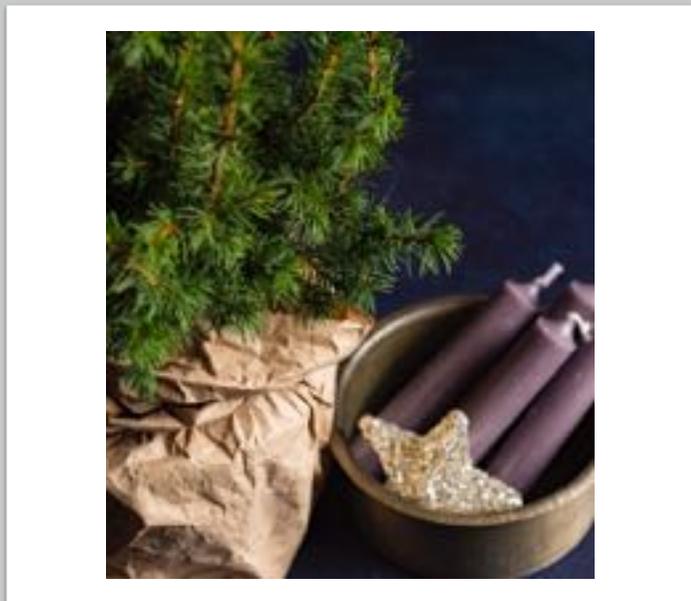
- New Year's Eve and Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Valentine's Day
- St. Patrick's Day
- Earth Day
- Mother's Day
- Memorial Day
- Father's Day
- July 4 – Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Start of School
- Halloween
- Thanksgiving



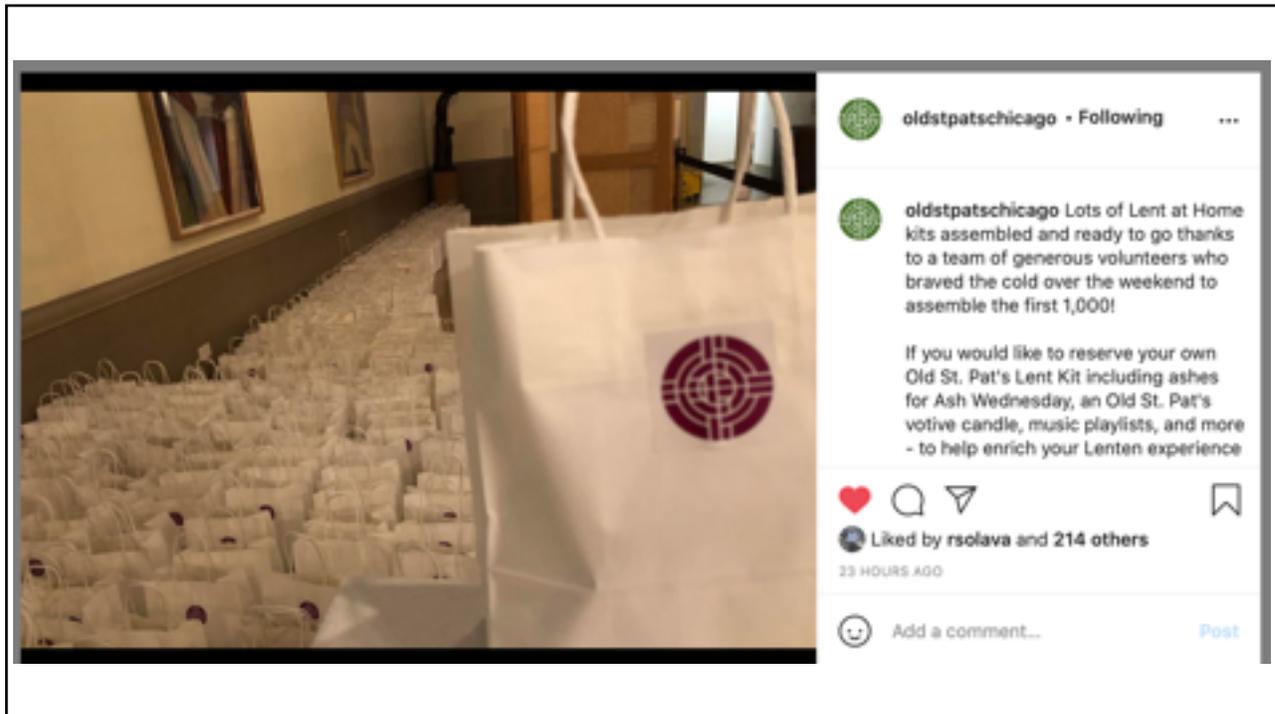
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#3 Celebrating Seasons: Church Year

- Advent
- Christmas
- Epiphany
- Ash Wednesday
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Pentecost



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Imagine extending the Lent Kit:

- Invitation to participate in the virtual Ash Wednesday service (kit includes enough ashes for the family)
- Video on the meaning/symbolism of our Ash Wednesday practice
- Video on Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving
- Encouragement and resources for prayer and participation
- #socialmedia tags to promote community building.

*What could you include?
What could you use to extend the experience?*

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#4. The Bible & Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship

At Home & Daily Life Experiences

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Encountering God in the Bible

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graph TD; BIBLE((BIBLE)) --> GD((Going Deeper)); BIBLE --> FC((Family Conversations)); BIBLE --> CBA((Children's Bible Activities)); BIBLE --> TR((Table Ritual)); BIBLE --> PD((Prayer/Devotion)); BIBLE --> DBV((Daily Bible Verses)); BIBLE --> SA((Serving/Action Ideas));
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Going Deeper

Family Conversations

Children's Bible Activities

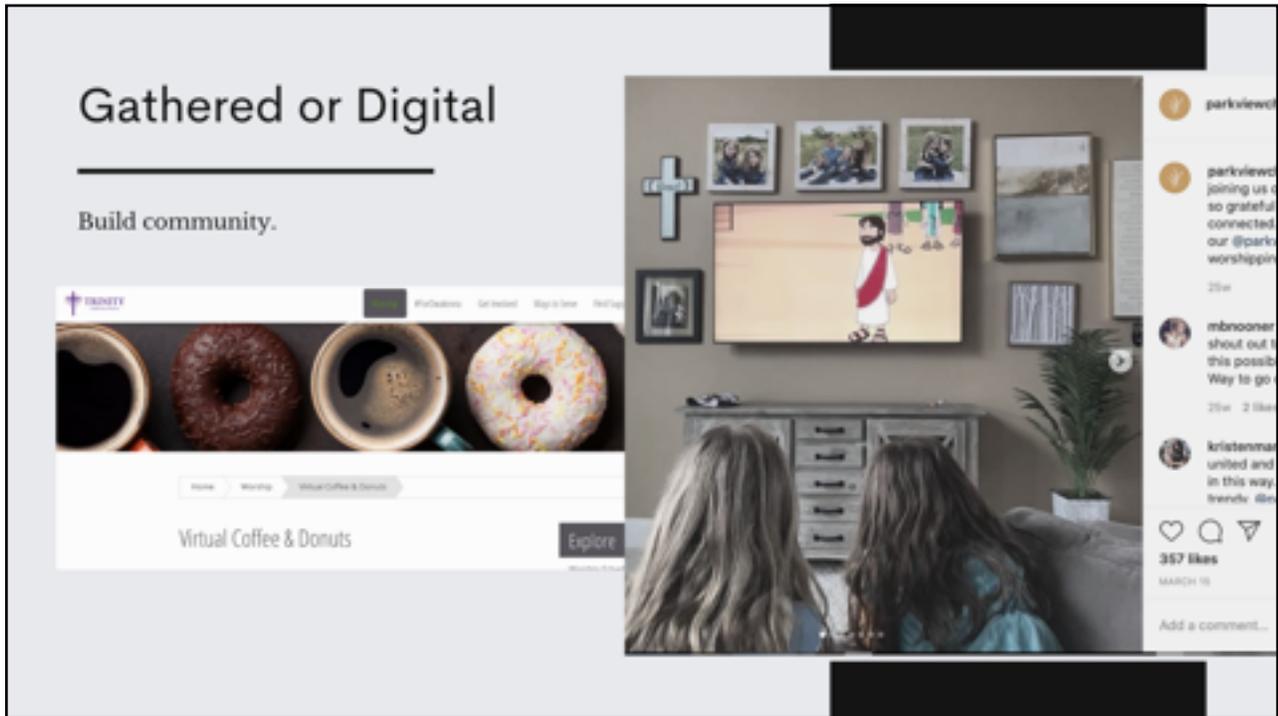
Table Ritual

Prayer/Devotion

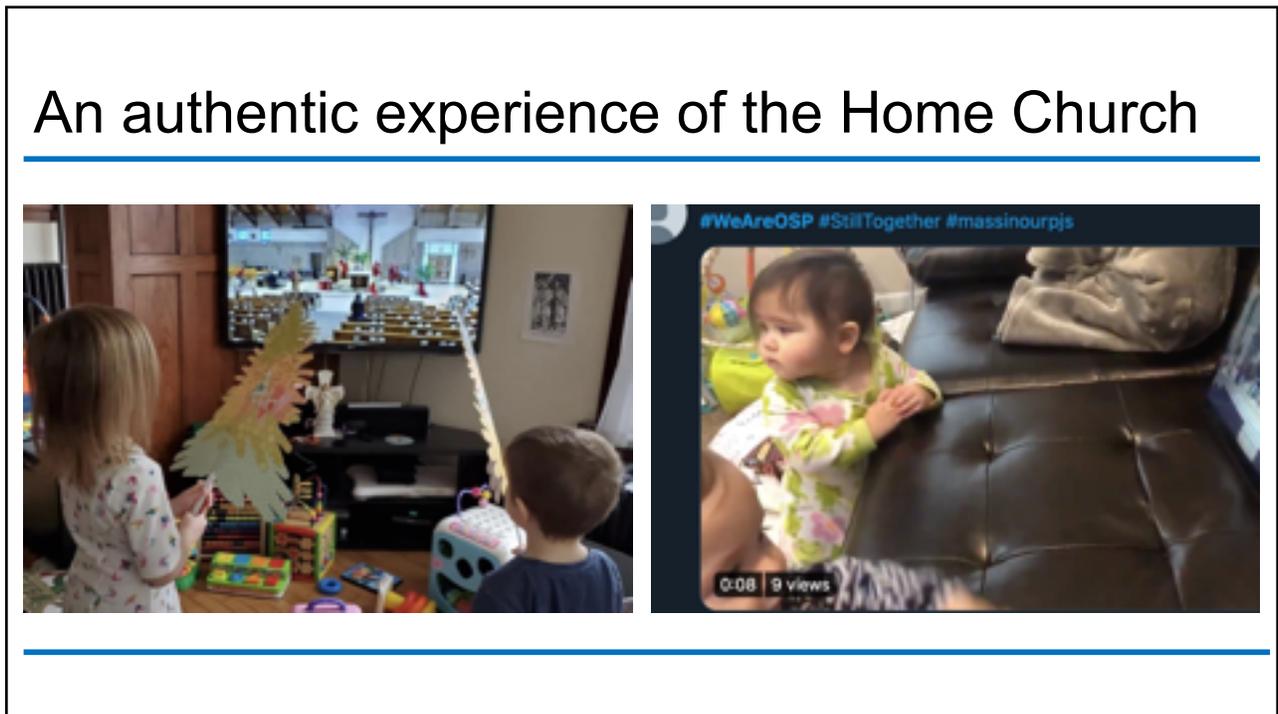
Daily Bible Verses

Serving/Action Ideas

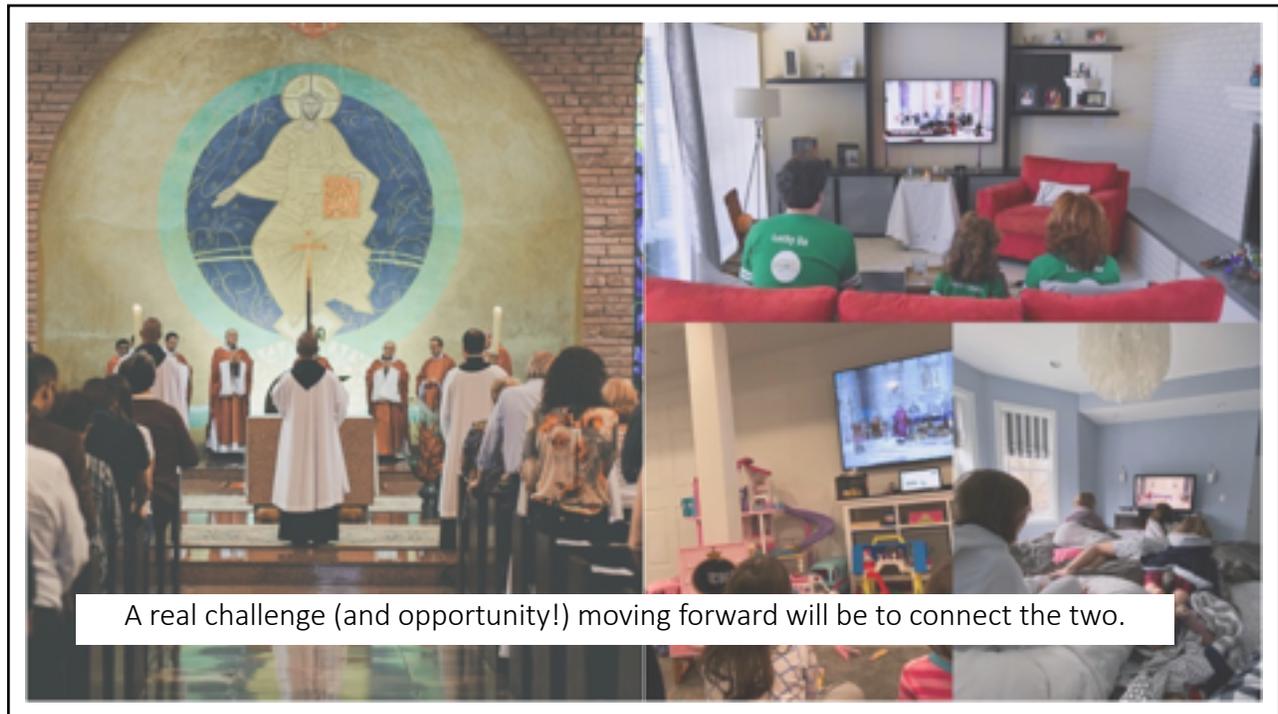
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A real challenge (and opportunity!) moving forward will be to connect the two.

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#5. Whole Family Programs

Incorporate family programs throughout the year – on seasonal themes, family life themes, etc.

Substitute an age group program for a family program: Weeks 1-4 - Age Groups + Week 5 – Family Program.

Redesign VBS as a family program or with family components

Design extended time (half-day, full day) **immersion** experiences—at church or in the community—where families can experience the Christian faith firsthand, such as hospitality at a homeless shelter or serving a meal at a soup kitchen or caring for creation by planting a garden.

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Ideas: Practice of the Month or Season

Incorporate faith practices throughout the year by teaching the practices through experiential activities in children and youth programs, for example:

- Eating Well
- Forgiving
- Generosity
- Hospitality
- **Keeping Sabbath**
- Praying
- Reading the Bible
- Stewardship / Care for Creation
- Transforming the World

Then invite parents to reinforce the practice through continued at-home experiences that you provide online for easy access.

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ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA
CATHOLIC CHURCH
AUSTIN, TEXAS

Family Faith Formation Website

f in p

FAITH FORMATION 2020-2021
"LIVING LEISURELY THROUGH THE LITURGICAL YEAR"

Welcome to the St. Catherine of Siena Religious Education website. We are glad you're here!

WHAT WILL FAITH FORMATION BE LIKE THIS YEAR? CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT!

Click on the MENU button in the top left corner of this screen to see more pages.

<https://stcatherine-austin.org/children-and-youth> <https://www.stcatfamilyfaith.com>

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Ideas: Prayer Practice of the Month

Teach	Teach a different form of prayer, and/or experience a prayer practice each month during the class or program: contemplative, Scriptural, intercessory, praise (adoration), thanksgiving, etc.
Develop	Develop a short video of the children or teens praying so that parents can see prayer in action.
Provide	Provide prayer activities and resources online for parents to continue the “prayer of the month” at home.

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Christ the King Lutheran Church (ECLA)

The screenshot displays a website interface with a blue background and a central white diamond shape containing the church's name. The website is organized into several sections:

- Directed Prayer:** Includes links to a [Prayer Map](https://www.cktdurango.org), **Read/Pray** (with a link to <https://www.cktdurango.org>), **Prayers/Prayer Prizes**, **Prayer Librarians** (with a link to [The Labyrinth Story Virtual Labyrinth](#)), **Prayer with a Full Deck**, **Prayer Librarians** (with a link to [The Story of God with Morgan](#)), **Novels from Home** (with a link to [Listen to songs from CKK's Aurora Rose on her YouTube Channel](#)), and **Browse Christian Art** (with a link to [Browse Christian Art](#)).
- Activities:** Includes **Neighborhood Message**, **Coloring Page** (with a link to [FREE from Blessed Ministry](#)), **Make a Collage**, **Go on Virtual Tours**, **Prayer with a Full Deck** (with a link to [The Story of God with Morgan](#)), **Prayer Librarians** (with a link to [The Story of God with Morgan](#)), **Novels from Home** (with a link to [Listen to songs from CKK's Aurora Rose on her YouTube Channel](#)), and **Browse Christian Art** (with a link to [Browse Christian Art](#)).
- Footer:** Includes a contact form with fields for "Your Name" and "Your email (so we have questions)", and a link to <https://www.cktdurango.org/faith-formation-at-home/>.

78

Christian Reformed Church

"I cannot transform myself, or anyone else for that matter. What I can do is create the conditions in which spiritual transformation can take place."
RUTH HALEY BARTON

THE FAITH PRACTICES PROJECT

Explore 12 life-giving faith practices with resources for individuals, groups, and families

Resource release dates

Sabbath / Sept. 2020	Listening / March 2021
Gratitude / Oct. 2020	Celebration / April 2021
Generosity / Nov. 2020	Prayer / May 2021
Hospitality / Dec. 2020	Wonder / June 2021
Engaging Scripture / Jan. 2021	Remembering / July 2021
Justice and Mercy / Feb. 2021	Service / Aug. 2021

crcna.org/FaithFormation/Practices

79

#6. Parent Programming

Content:

- Parental Faith Formation
- Faith Forming Skills & Practices
- Knowledge & Skills for Parenting

80

Parent Programming

1. Develop a progression of parent workshops, webinars, or courses through the life cycle
2. Incorporate parent formation and education into church events
3. Add a parallel parent experience to the existing child/teen program
4. Add a parent component to VBS
5. Design laboratory experiences
6. Develop parent mentors
7. Create life cycle or affinity groups
8. Provide a website or online group



81

Idea: Family Life Skills

Focus on the types of skill-building that will strengthen family life, and parent-child/teen relationships, such as:

- communicating effectively
- discussing tough topics
- making decisions and solving problems as a family
- learning how to build strong relationships and express care for each other
- supporting each other
- treating each with respect and dignity

Many of these skills can be developed using movies selected for their positive messages. An example of a movie that provides a foundation for follow-up activities is Disney/Pixar's *Inside Out* about the emotional life of child growing up.



82



Parent Programming Laboratory Experiences

- A family-centered worship experience can be an opportunity to teach parents about worship, reading the Bible, and how to do these things at home.
- A church-wide service day can be an opportunity to teach parents about the biblical basis of service and how to integrate service into family life.
- A church year seasonal celebration can be an opportunity to teach about ritual and how to celebrate rituals and church year seasons at home.
- These immersion experiences can be supported with online content for parents and for the whole family.

83

Parent Programming: A Plan

When parents show up at church, they are often asking silent questions that we must answer; questions they don't even know they're asking. To begin looking at parents through a different filter, imagine that every time a parent walks through the door, he or she is asking you to do three things:

- ***Give me the plan.*** They want a plan that will give them a system of support, consistent influence, and a steady flow of relevant information.
- ***Show me how it works.***
- ***Tell me what to do today.*** We have to give them specific instructions or resources to use this week. Give parents a map and a schedule.



84

Help parents tackle tough topics

Click on image for link.

PARENT TIPS
Produced by Jonathan McKee

25. Talking with your kids about racial tension
Parent Tips w/ Jonathan McKee

Region & Specialty: [Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)

It's everything our kids are seeing and experiencing in their world right now: anger, frustration, fear... we know you're left with our kids about this and help them understand how to respond? Here's three tips I've been learning on my personal journey that may be helpful to you, too.

[Episode Website](#)

[More Episodes](#)

Copyright ©2018 Podcast Network

When Joy is a Struggle | Kell Reese [Ep

85

DESIGNING FAITH (2021)

HOME PLANNING DIGITAL REALISTS

Parent Support Resources

Podcasts

Why should you listen to podcasts? Here's [7 Reasons You Should Start Listening to Podcasts Today](#)
[12 Best Podcasts for Parenting in 2020](#). And here's [12 Essential Parenting Podcast for Parents Without Any Time](#) from [Eatherly](#).

Here's just a few of those top podcasts related to parents, parenting, and raising children. Click on image to go to podcast link and description.

86

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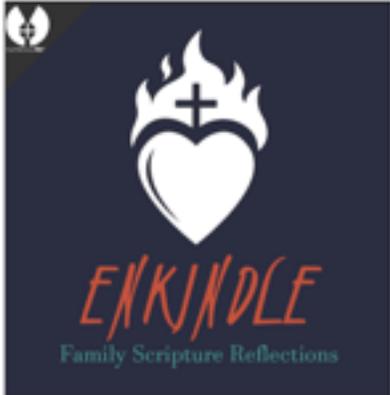
**FAITH
IN AN
ANXIOUS
WORLD**

Faith in an Anxious World brought to you by Fuller Institute



**GROWING WITH
PARENTING**
STEVE ARGUE & KARA POWELL

Growing with Parenting brought to you by Fuller Institute



ENKINDLE
Family Scripture Reflections

Enkindle: Family Scripture Reflections from Ablaze Parent/Family Program

87

Start a Podcast Club for Moms

From Don't Mom Alone

START A PODCAST CLUB!

HOW IT WORKS

Invite a few friends (your friends are really great!)
 Decide on a day and a time to meet.
 Pick a podcast to read.

GET UNDER RESOURCES

Each podcast episode and discussion questions shared with each member of your group. Group kit available.

NAME:

EMAIL:

JOIN UP!

COLLECTION **DON'T MOM ALONE** SPEAKING ABOUT **PODCAST CLUB**



Motherhood can be isolating. Heather has learned the hard way how much she needs community. She also knows it can be hard to find. So she wants to help you create the thing you need.

- 1) Invite one, two or ten moms to meet with you as often as you want.
- 2) Listen to the podcast on your own time (easier than making time to read a book).
- 3) Come together to discuss the episode and share your mom journey.

It's like a book club...but better! Heather and her team provide the leaders guide, discussion questions and support along the way.









88

The banner features three distinct sections. On the left, a black and white portrait of Heather MacFayden is shown above the 'DON'T M8 ALONE' logo and the word 'PODCAST' in large orange letters. The middle section has an orange background with white symbols like a dollar sign and a hashtag, with the title 'Mom and Dad Are Fighting' in bold black text and the 'SLATE' logo below. The right section has a light blue background with the 'Today's Teenager' logo and the tagline 'Understand | Reach | Influence'.

DON'T M8 ALONE **PODCAST** WITH HEATHER MACFADYEN

Start a podcast club for Moms! Heather MacFayden has tips, stories, and content so you can make that happen!

Mom and Dad Are Fighting

Mom and Dad are Fighting brought to you by Slate. Check out ["So... You Want to Be a Homeschooler"](#).

Today's Teenager

Understand | Reach | Influence

Today's Teenager with counselor Roy Pettilis. Check out ["Managing Cooped Up Teens"](#).

89

The graphic has a light gray background with a white rectangular area in the center. Inside this area, the text 'Find Margins Start Easy Build Trust Go Deeper' is stacked vertically. Below this area, the words 'Create Space' are written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, appearing to be on a white surface that recedes into the distance.

Find Margins
Start Easy
Build Trust
Go Deeper

Create Space

90

Let them know their stories matter

From sharing their reflections (in the bulletin, on your website, on social media, in parent sessions) to creating a podcast, let them know their experiences matter.

Offer platforms so that they might become the evangelizers in your faith community!

For parishioners of Resurrection and St. Paul, and/or parents of RSPS we have a parent Facebook group.

Programs

WALK THROUGH SCRIPTURE

PARENT CONNECT



Recordings from Past Sessions

Session One: Faith during difficult times

Parent Connect Vol. 1 - Dawn Ackerman & Corie McCarty-Gibson 00:00 / 00:01

Session Two: Parents who have Elementary Schoolers

Parent Connect Vol. 2 - Elementary Parents 00:00 / 00:01

Session Three: Preparing for and helping teens grow in the faith

91



- What inspires?
- What sparks ideas?
- What's still challenging?
- Low hanging fruit?
- A "keep in mind"?
- What will you hang on to?
- What do you need to let go of?

92

Going forward, even when the pandemic doesn't dictate it, can church leaders create and sustain some sort of welcoming digital space? With all that's happened over the last year, "this is the time when folks are open to it," he said.



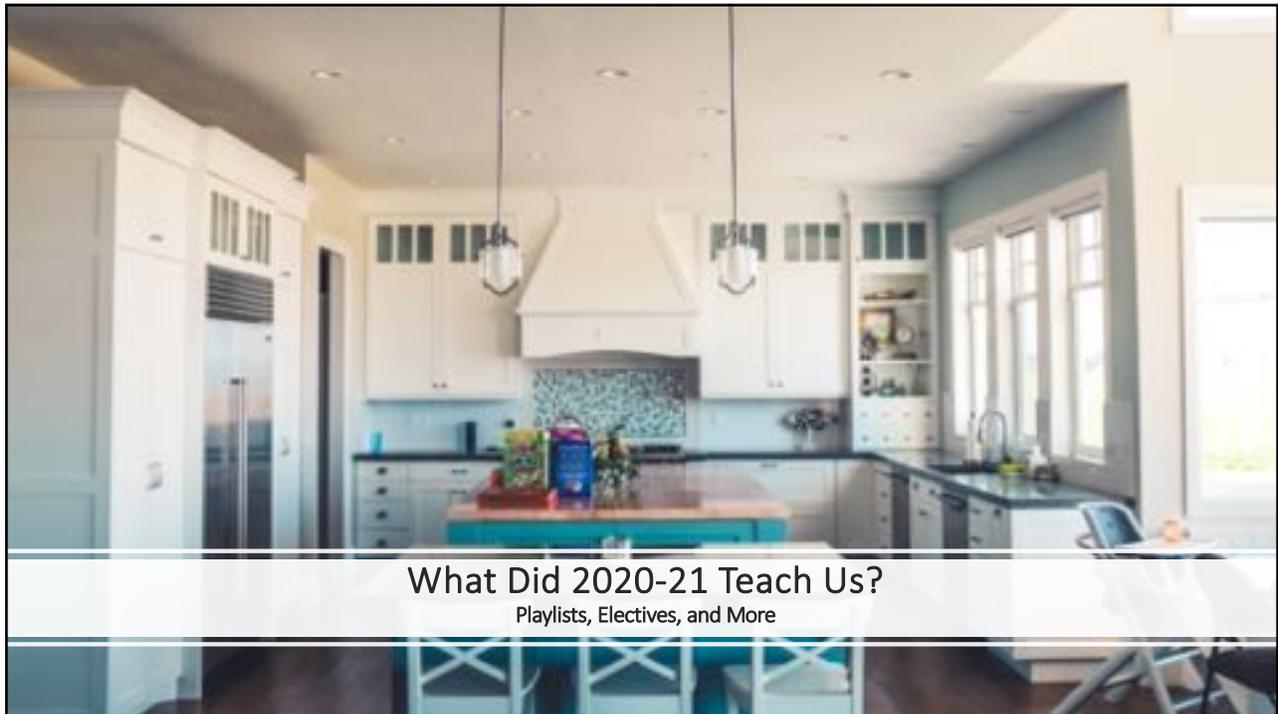
DREAMING

Deeply embrace this time as a real new normal.

Reflection on how you have modeled adaptive leadership and practices.

Begin to reimagine and dream about the future.

93



What Did 2020-21 Teach Us?
Playlists, Electives, and More

94



95

What Are Digital Playlists?

- A faith formation playlist is a curated group of digital (online, video, audio, print), gathered (church, home, small groups, etc.), and non-gathered faith forming experiences and resources that are tailored to the specific faith growth needs of people around a particular characteristic of faith maturing or theme/topic.
- Each playlist can provide a variety of ways for people to learn and grow in faith.
- Playlists can also be developed for each "stage" on the discernment continuum, such as Inquiring, Getting Started, Growing, Going Deeper
- Playlists can offer options for length of time of activity, schedule of events, etc.

96

How might a parish use playlists?

- Extend a church event or program
- Design one event or program and offer it in multiple platforms
- Prepare for an event with a playlist
- Follow up on an event or learning experience with a playlist
- Flip a gathered program
- Integrate online and gathered programs
- Create online experiences only
- Use webinars, Facebook live, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people

97

Examples

- Extend a church event or program
- Design one event or program and offer it in multiple platforms
- **Prepare for an event with a playlist: Christmas**
- Follow up on an event or learning experience with a playlist
- Flip a gathered program
- Integrate online and gathered programs
- Create online experiences only
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98

How might a parish use playlists?

- Extend a church event or program
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- Prepare for an event with a playlist
- Follow up on an event or learning experience with a playlist
- Flip a gathered program
- **Integrate online and gathered programs/non-gathered experiences**
- Create online experiences only
- Use webinars, Facebook live, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people

99



Prayer

Creating a digital playlist

Starting with prayer:

Step one: Choose the activities you want to offer for families. Choose something for everyone, different prayer styles, different activities. Some active, some quiet. Some traditional, some contemporary.

Step two: Write instructions for families, overall instructions, and then specific instructions for each activity.

Step three: Engage families in a way that invites them to reflect on their experience and share that reflection. Collect their stories and/or images and share them on a platform with the local community to encourage conversation, which can be done through a variety of methods.

100

Traditional meal time prayer:

Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty. Though Christ our Lord, Amen.

Play Highs and Lows at the dinner table.

Turn it into prayer. Each person at the table names at least one high for the day and a low if they have one. Turn the highs into prayers of thanksgiving and the lows into prayers of request. Thank you, Lord. Help me, Lord. Add Wows. Where did you see God today? Where can we give him praise for something that gave you pause, a moment of awe?

5 minutes or more.



leaven_family_meal.pdf
Download File

Read pages 7 and 9 for a personal story of Highs and Lows at the dinner table.

Get creative with meal time prayer with ideas found in this article:
[Saying Grace: 10 Inspiring Mealtimes Prayers to Share with Family](#)

Find a video prayer meal time prayer for the kids to learn [HERE](#).

Ten Popular Bedtime Prayers for Children

Parents, learn the benefits of praying nightly with your children. Choose one of the prayers and pray it nightly with your children this month. At the end of the month let your child choose whether to keep this prayer or choose a new one. Talk about how nightly prayer can calm us, give us the opportunity to give thanks for our blessings, and help us to surrender our worries to God each night.

3 minutes or more



101

Praying Outside

15 - 45 minutes.

You can also create a prayer space outside on a bench, with a cross, a statue of Mary, or of a favorite saint.

Where do you most feel the presence of God? A prayer chair? A prayer corner? On a nature walk? A spot lakeside or along the beach? Pay attention to the spaces where you most know God is with you. Spend time in that space. Nurture that relationship. Help your children do the same. Discover your child's "God Language."

Go for a prayer walk. Notice what calls your attention on the walk. Give thanks for the things that create a sense of awe in you, the things you find beautiful, the things that make you smile.



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DESIGNING FAITH (2021) HOME PLANNING SOCIAL REALISTS



Parent Support Resources

Podcasts

Why should you listen to podcasts? Here's [7 Reasons You Should Start Listening to Podcasts Today](#)
[12 Best Podcasts for Parenting in 2020](#), And here's [12 Essential Parenting Podcast for Parents Without Any Time](#) from [Ezheby](#)

Here's just a few of those top podcasts related to parents, parenting, and raising children. Click on image to go to podcast link and description.

103

Start a Podcast Club for Moms

From Don't Mom Alone

START A PODCAST CLUB!

HOW IT WORKS

Invite a few friends (or find them on social media)
 Decide on a day and a time to meet
 Pick a podcast to listen

GET UNDER RESOURCES

1 hour podcast episodes and discussion questions shared each week
 Weekly or bi-weekly group chat available



Motherhood can be isolating. Heather has learned the hard way how much she needs community. She also knows it can be hard to find. So she wants to help you create the thing you need.

- 1) Invite one, two or ten moms to meet with you as often as you want.
- 2) Listen to the podcast on your own time (easier than making time to read a book).
- 3) Come together to discuss the episode and share your mom journey.

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104

DON'T M&A ALONE PODCAST WITH HEATHER MACFADYEN

Start a podcast club for Moms! Heather MacFayden has tips, stories, and content so you can make that happen!

Mom and Dad Are Fighting
SLATE

Mom and Dad are Fighting brought to you by Slate. Check out "So... You Want to Be a Homeschooler"

Today's Teenager
Understand | Reach | Influence

Today's Teenager with counselor Roy Petifils. Check out "Managing Cooped Up Teens".

105

Anchor

Make your own podcast for free

FROM WHERE I STAND
C3 PODCAST

From Where I Stand
By St. Charles Borromeo

A podcast produced by St. Charles Borromeo Church, Montgomery Township, NJ. Sometimes, in the most ordinary moment, we see life in a different way. It's the moment when you realize that you are being called to some new choice. Here, we'll share the story of someone who has experienced a call. Their life might be just like yours, or nothing like it. But as you listen, you might find yourself hearing, "Yes, been called too!" From Where I Stand.

Listen on Spotify | Message

Website

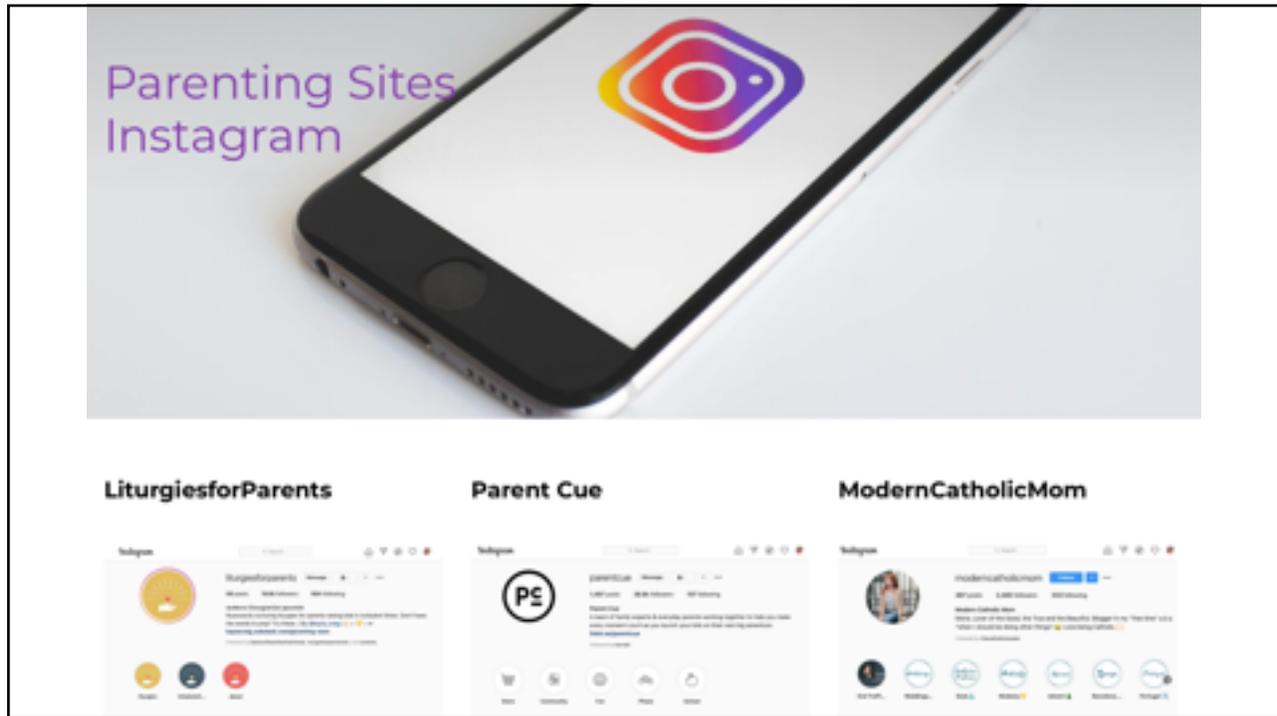
WHERE TO LISTEN

An Interview with Michele and Tatiana Swain
From Where I Stand - Jul 28

An Interview with Michele and Tatiana
Michele and Tatiana share their experience as a mother and a daughter from a bi-racial family during the times of the Black Lives Matter movement.

An Interview with Joe Santorio
Joe shares his story about how he has been called during the times of COVID-19 to serve others as an OMT.

106



107

EXHALE
Oh breathe me

INHALE
I will be with

EXHALE
Help me wait for You

Reassure your kids that what they're feeling is temporary, but that the way you feel about them will never, ever change.

Holly Crosshair

PARRENTCUE

NOTHING.
-Saint Faustine-

Nothing has ever before in your life happened - you were a question and you thought for a moment you were a person with a gift of hearing.

Nothing has ever before in your life happened - you were a question and you thought for a moment you were a person with a gift of hearing.

Create a faith community instagram page just for parents

- Create posts with nuggets from pastor's sermons.
- Create posts with reflections from parents.
- Create posts encourage parents in their role as parents.
- Create posts that equip parents as spiritual leaders in the home.
- Create posts that help get parents curious about their children's spirituality.

The possibilities are endless!

108



Gratitude

Gratitude is the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. **Gratitude** helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

Reflection questions:

- What are you grateful for?
- Can you think of something that made you smile today?
- Is it hard to feel grateful when you've had a difficult day?
- What can we do to remind ourselves of gratitude even when we're not feeling very happy or grateful?
- What helps you stay grateful?
- Do you think there's a link between gratitude and happiness or joy?
- How do you express gratitude?
- How do you offer prayers of thanksgiving?

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<p>Gratitude Walk 15minute - 60 minutes</p> <p>Instructions</p> <p>Reflections questions: As you walk in the park or along a bike path, or just in your neighborhood, pay attention. Take your camera if you'd like to capture this experience in images.</p> <p>Pay attention to the sounds, to the smells, you the beauty. What do you see? What do you hear? For what are you thankful?</p> <p>Reflect on this experience. Write a prayer that attends to an expression of your gratitude. Or send us your photos with your reflections.</p>	<p>Bible Story Read the following Scripture story or watch the video below with your children. Reflect on the concept of gratitude. What would you do if you were one of the healed lepers?</p> <p>Luke 17: 11-19 Jesus Heals Ten Men with Leprosy.</p> 	<p>5 Family Gratitude Practices Click here for 5 family gratitude practices: daily gratitude sharing, gratitude board of jar, thankful "warm fuzzies," gratitude journal, giving to others.</p> <p>Take a picture of your gratitude journal or your gratitude jar and send it to us at _____.</p> <p>Or send us a reflection on how this practice affected your families experience of gratitude this month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How might this activity help an individual grow in faith? • How might this activity help a family grow in faith?

110

Podcasts are incredibly popular today. You can listen in the car, while you're making dinner, or cleaning the house, or walking the nature path near you. Listen to these podcasts then offer reflection questions for parents/families. Instruct them on how they can share their stories/reflections with you. Best practices suggest putting timeframes to these activities/podcasts as well.

- [Brene Brown on Gratitude, Vulnerability, and Courage](#)
- [Cultivate an Attitude of Gratitude with Lewis Howes](#)
- [The Power of Gratitude](#)

You could add instructions here, ask parents to choose an activity from an article below. With more time we might actually add activities in this section instead of articles... giving credit to any creator who shared their activities in these articles.

- [129 Reasons to Be Thankful](#)
- [The Skill of Gratitude](#)
- [Creative Family Gratitude Activities Kids and Parents Will Love](#)
- [How to Practice Gratitude: 10 Awesome Family Projects](#)
- [11 Most Popular Gratitude Exercises and Activities](#)

Take the Gratitude Challenge

Gratitude is a way of being. Science tells us it's good for us and for those we are around, family, friends, co-workers. This year, find the right #gratitudechallenge for you.

Check out the [21 day passion planner gratitude challenge](#) - [HERE](#).

Or post an image on Instagram every day for the month of November with the hashtags: #gratitudechallenge #grateful

From Positivelypresent.com (see image to the right):
Use the hashtag #Gratitude30.
*Share your pics on Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, etc. if you want.

From [positivelypresent.com](#), take this [30 day challenge for 2020](#).



111

Soul Pancake
An Experiment in Gratitude: The Science of Happiness



Louie Schwartzberg
Nature, Beauty, Gratitude.



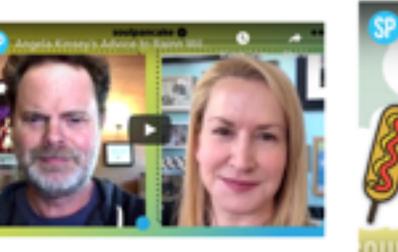
Long Story Shortz
My Gratitude Jar, a Story



Soul Pancake
Garden of Gratitude: Man on the Street



Soul Pancake
Staying Sane During Quarantine with Rainn Wilson and Angela Kinsey



Soul Pancake
Kid Presidents 25 Reasons To Be Thankful



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Strategies and Resources

A FEW THINGS TO EXPLORE FURTHER

Practical Strategies

There are many ways to involve parents and whole families in faith formation. Every leader has to find the best way for their own community. There are numerous links in the pages that follow to begin that search.

Resources

In the final pages of this presentation are links for playlists, videos, and more. If you are looking for resources please do not hesitate to contact me at dutter@vibrantfaith.org.



113



Designing a Family Friendly Approach – Where to Start?

114



Becoming a Storytelling Community

115

What is your quick win?

- ? Where will you start?
- 📶 Think audience
- 💡 Think strategies
- 📝 Think methods

116



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Resources:
Videos

Funny or moving parent videos for parent gatherings

- I'm Sorry Mom - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=irZOV2f9WZY>
- Other Journeybox videos - <https://www.youtube.com/c/Journeyboxmedia/videos>
- Letter to My Kids/Fatherhood Project - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cn4dXuev-nA&feature=emb_logo
- Other Fatherhood Project videos - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLzvRx_johoA89QW9tuOF0wV_FHH2_FCw3
- Other Soul Pancake videos (with all the feels) - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaDVcGDMkvcRb4qGARKWlyq>
- It's Just a Phase - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA0VVLSBme4&t=84s>
- Back to School in 2020? - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scIDv-oVllo>
- March 2020 vs Now: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fjf9l4v3Hw&t=98s>
- Moms in 2020: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHq8ymmxb5E>
- Playing for Keeps - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oF-yynTuVI> (Think Orange)

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Resources:

Playlists – website and newsletter styles:

- <https://www.launchfaith.com/examples-of-playlists.html>
- <https://stjudeadventplaylist.weebly.com>
- <https://artprayer.weebly.com>
- <https://designingfaithstl.weebly.com/digital-playlists.html>
- Newsletter style playlist from the Catholic diocese of Rochester– <https://oec.dor.org/evangelization/the-family-zone-newsletter/>. Recent examples of this lectionary-based playlist.
 - <https://www.smores.com/wxh8k>
 - <https://www.smores.com/r9sm0>
 - <https://www.smores.com/gk9u2>

Parent Affinity Groups:

- <https://hbr.org/2018/11/how-to-launch-a-working-parents-support-group-in-your-organization>
- <https://www.ravenscroft.org/our-community/ravens-reports/story-page/~board/november/post/beyond-the-classroom-building-community-through-parent-education>
- <https://www.parkschool.net/life-at-park/diversity-equity-inclusion/letter-from-head-of-school-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/parent-affinity-groups/>
- <https://corporettemoms.com/working-parents-group/>
- <https://www.pactadopt.org/adoptive/services/support/online-affinity-groups.html>

119

Resources:

Instagram for Parents

- <https://www.instagram.com/liturgiesforparents/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/parentcue/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/parentstogether/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/curious.parenting/>

Podcasts for Parents

- <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/faith-in-an-anxious-world/id1493444457?i=1000461397614>
- <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/growing-with-parenting-podcast/id1458148753>
- <http://www.numinous.fm/show/enkindle-2>
- <https://dontmomalone.com/podcast-show/>
- <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/todays-teenager/id1118889657>
- Create a mom's podcast club - <https://dontmomalone.com/join/>
- <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/mom-and-dad-are-fighting-slates-parenting-show/id774383607>
- <https://anchor.fm/st-charles-borromeo>
- <https://podcast.downloadyouthministry.com/parent-tips/>
- Best parenting podcasts - <https://www.fatherly.com/play/best-parenting-podcasts/>
- Best parenting podcasts - <https://www.bullhorn.fm/blog/best-podcast-for-parenting/>
- Best parenting podcasts - https://blog.feedspot.com/parenting_podcasts/

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Resources:

Google Slide example: Addressing racism

- https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1QiBQiSdb6m6DvezwCcQmKxCOtjcl0y9tRgsT4-g-1eA/mobilepresent?fbclid=IwAR3wJUZx1wYuBeWslGuVks0DfKBzff-3x4tZ9cMLvOBP_zVzay8J98KcJg&slide=id.p

Google Slide – How to Tutorials

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvzgaER9BIY&t=16s>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-P_WdQWpc8
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGKTvUbxXY>

The Ultimate Collection of Family Faith Formation Resources for Every Church

- <https://network.crcna.org/church-libraries/ultimate-collection-family-faith-formation-resources-every-church>

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Faith Community Video Examples

St Gertrude with some "WHY"

- Welcome to Family Faith - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gE4GDW_E9gA
- Covenant as Key to Bible - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9Y8drwf9G4>

Families Growing in Faith: Ellicott City –

- Parent Connect #2 Elem - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyFyl.GYBTOI&t=1064s>
- Parent Connect #3 Teens - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrYahifDt68&t=1144s>
- Parent Connect #4 (PS) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DANv2RIHWS>
- Easter Challenge - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OpNII6Quxc>

Peace Christian Reformed Church

- Introduction to FAITH at Home - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqkZYSS4vTE>
- Faith at Home Together - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGdTbYQ-V5I>

122

Faith Community Video Examples

St Matthew @ Matt or @ Home

- @Matt Parent Orientation - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfigbEHsdlg>
- @Home - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYAvIAUnCVU&feature=youtu.be>
- MOMS groups is offering encouragement through song/reflection, parenting podcast and online bible study:
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDSpWiGdEjw&feature=emb_logo
 - <https://fireside.fm/s/MnkiOCl+CbMeal0L>
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuSXGuvg3u8&feature=emb_logo

Holy Rosary Family Faith

- Intro and unit 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3MhH6y8o5o>

St. James Faith Formation

- Family Mentors – a new ministry! - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4UJlae5fAc>

St. Catherine –BLAZE Family Faith Formation

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAdWTaxs47A>

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Related Resources:

- **Barna Group** provides leaders a digital copy of *Households of Faith* for FREE! right now due to COVID-19. Check that offer out here - <https://www.barna.com/faith-formation-at-home/>.
- The **National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry** offers free webinars on a variety of topics. Check out past recordings, like *Families at Home: Managing and Working Amidst a Stay at Home Reality*, here: <https://nfcym.org/resources/webinars/crisis-webinars/>. And find upcoming webinars, like the series on Restoring Hope (with some great friends of mine presenting) here: <https://nfcym.org/resources/webinars/>.
- CRC has this great page offering so many tips for 2020-21 here: <https://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation>. There's also - **How Gathering Online Can Help Your Church Write a Narrative for Faith Formation**, Lesli Van Milligan at <https://network.crcna.org/faith-nurture/how-gathering-online-can-help-your-church-write-new-narrative-faith-formation>.
- **Ministry Spark** offers resources for leaders, their ministries, and the families they serve - <https://ministryspark.com>. I love the How to Create Community When You Can't be Together page (<https://ministryspark.com/create-community-together-isolation/>).
- From the American Anglican Council, you'll find a great piece titled "What The Online Church Can Learn From Online Education" at <https://americananglican.org/featured/what-the-online-church-can-learn-from-online-education/>.
- The **International Network of Children's Ministry** has also compiled resources on how to reopen or how to plan during COVID-19 here: <https://incm.org/coronavirus/>.
- **The Institute for Youth Ministry** has a great page with a wide variety of resources (such as tips for online gatherings and digital tools) at YM in a Pandemic. <http://iyem.ptsem.edu/resources/youth-ministry-in-pandemic/>

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Related Resources:

Launch Faith referred to in this presentation can be found here: <https://www.launchfaith.com>. They even started a podcast, which you can find here: <https://soundcloud.com/launch-faith-formation/planning/sets>

[Re Imagining Faith Formation Part I:](#)

Webinar with Rev. Christine Hides (with Kathy Pittenger) about Re-imagining Faith Formation to offer encouragement, resources and creative space as we consider flexibility and considerations for hybrid faith formation - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fs7kb51imR0&feature=emb_logo

[Re Imagining Faith Formation Part II:](#)

In part 2, Rev. Christy Miller White and Rev. Kathy Pittenger share possibilities about practical steps that churches may want to take as we take the next steps in hybrid faith formation. How can we create and nurture relationships? How can we transform the world from our homes? - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3dhdPiUln4&t=115s>

Playlists at the Michigan Conference – United Methodist Church site:

- Kathy Pittenger provides Family Faith Formation Playlists
- <https://michiganumc.org/resources/childrens-ministry-tool-box/faith-family-playlists/playlists/>
- Rev. Christine Hides site has great online resources (<https://christinehides.com/category/online-faith-formation/>), especially COVID-19 resources (<https://christinehides.com/category/covid-19-planning-tools/>). I love "After Easter, what is the plan?" (<https://christinehides.com/2020/04/20/after-easter-what-is-the-plan/>).

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Related Resources:

- Buildfaith.org always has some creative and practical ideas. I love the recent post 28 Off-Screen Ministry Ideas for Fall and <https://buildfaith.org/webinar-on-august-20th-off-screen-ministry-ideas-for-fall-2/> (with a Webinar recording as well!)
- From Sadlier, Steve Botsford offers, "Embracing Digital Catechesis in Catholic Faith Formation" - <https://www.sadlier.com/religion/blog/embracing-digital-catechesis-in-catholic-faith-formation>. Also from Botsford, "Digital Technology in Catechetical Ministry – Guide for Catechetical and School Leaders" looks at the benefits and challenges of digital faith formation - <https://www.sadlier.com/religion/blog/digital-technology-in-catechetical-ministry-guide-for-catechetical-and-school-leaders>.
- From Dr. Joseph White, a synopsis from his work on families and faith formation - <https://www.sharingcatholicfaith.com/upload/Family%20-%20The%20Missing%20Piece%20--%20Monroe.pdf>.
- At McGrath Institute for Church Life you'll find "Creating Catechetical Lessons for Parents and Kids" - https://mcgrathblog.nd.edu/creating-catechetical-lessons-at-home?utm_campaign=COVID-19&utm_content=123319098&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&hss_channel=tw-925746173322977280.
- The full Christian Smith and Justin Bartkus video from the Symposium @ ND in 2016 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0FzwIM5iLM&index=1&list=PLkTmWAOroyYuyslg-pdsXeXZHWkulvIE1>
- Sign up here to receive the Report on American Catholic Religious Parenting - <http://churchlife-info.nd.edu/a-report-on-american-catholic-religious-parenting>

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<https://www.launchfaith.com>

A Practice Site for Faith Leaders

Playlists created by Rev. Dr. Tanya Campen,
Rev. Christine Hides, and
Rev. Kathy Pittenger.

Launch!

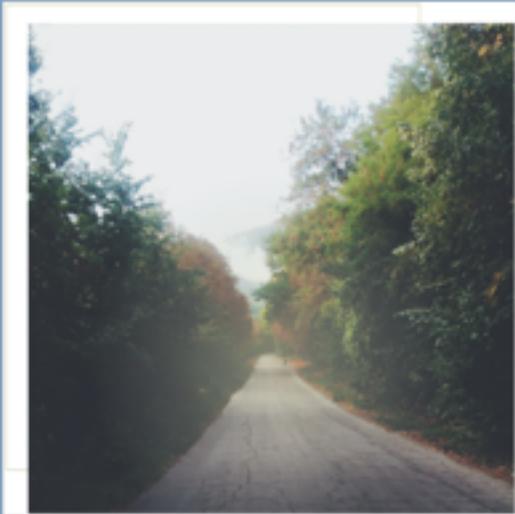
faith formation

Launch! faith formation is a series of short videos and curated resources to support and equip ministry leaders for the important work

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Grow and deepen your faith with curated playlists by reading, watching, listening, praying, reflecting, and doing.

Join their Catalyst conversation for more ideas



Miss a Sunday? Not able to attend worship in-person? Want to go deeper in your faith?

These playlists are designed for children, youth, adults, or families to use. Some are specifically for milestones (like baptism or confirmation), others are designed around Scripture, and some are based on a theme. Choose the Playlists of the week or any of the curated playlists you chose. Use the menu or buttons below to get started.

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Teeter Totter Plan

• Curious & Playful

Be curious: What have you noticed about ministry during COVID-19. Write down as many things as you can in 3-4 minutes.

Look for Opportunities:

Strengths	Weaknesses
-----------	------------

The Teeter Totter Parts:

Checklist:

- The fulcrum, or base = your "why"
- In-person gathering guidelines from your denomination and state government.
- At-home faith formation ministry.
- Online platform(s) that connect your at home and gathered ministry.

Designing Ministry Pivots:
Design thinking is a way to bring create solutions that arise from opportunities and challenges. Testing assumptions is key to creating effective solutions. Here's an example:

Tip: To avoid risk, try multiple solutions.

<p>Challenge</p> <p>Youth not showing up to online youth group.</p>	<p>Questions & Assumptions</p> <p>Zoomed-out, missing friends, might participate with families.</p>	<p>Solutions to Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owenship of choosing online group activities. Outdoor, safely distanced events. SHIFT to family faith formation.
--	--	--

WHY

Start with Why Playlist



Planning Faith Formation Teeter-Totter Plan



Online Ministry Tools Playlist

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Christine V. Hides

weaving faith into everyday life

<https://christinehides.com/category/covid-19-planning-tools/page/2/>

ABOUT
COVID-19 RESOURCES & PLANNING TOOLS
THE CHURCH YEAR
FAITH FORMATION
NEW TO MINISTRY

PRAYERS AND BLESSINGS
REFLECTIONS
ONLINE FAITH FORMATION
WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS
LAUNCH!
MY SHOP
HOME

JULY 5, 2020 / by CHRISTINE H.

A Glimpse: What Fall Ministry Might Look Like

In the spirit of collaboration and modeling vulnerability, I am offering you a glimpse of the **first iteration** of our plan, designed in the **shape of a teeter totter**, able to pivot smoothly between gathered and online as needed. Here are the steps we took to get to our first iteration from which we will learn, adapt, and grow.

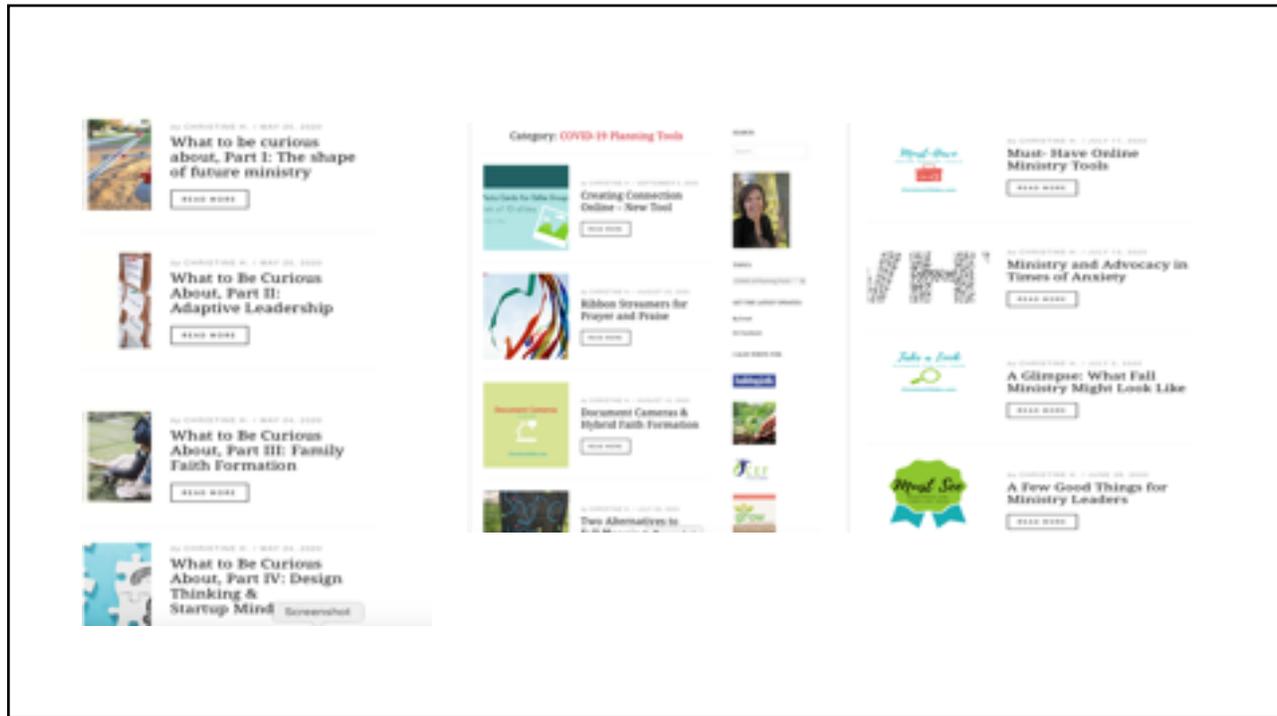
P.S., I'm part of two upcoming planning webinars that will delve deeper into planning in these unpredictable times:

- Faithful Planning with Virginia Theological Seminary
- Re-imagining Faith Formation with the Children's Initiative of the M

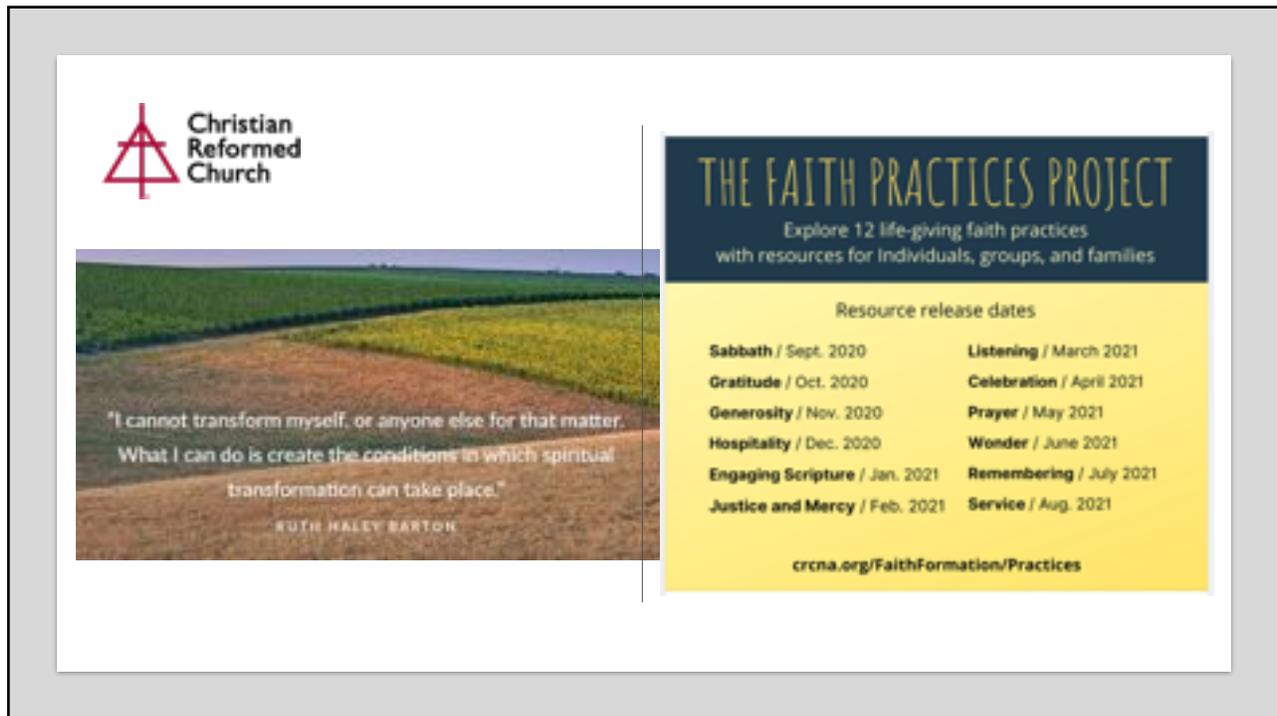
SEARCH:



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STRONG CATHOLIC FAMILY FAITH

We created Strong Catholic Family Faith to empower and equip Catholic leaders to accompany and form faith-filled Catholic families. Recent research states the importance of parents in the faith formation of their children. We curate relevant content and meaningful experiences so that leaders might better partner with parents in passing on the faith.

All of these resources have been selected and reviewed by the Project Team and drawn from trusted sources.

Please visit us often for new and updated resources that help you better partner with parents.

We want to hear from you! Join our mailing list and let us know how we can help. See the sign up below.

New/Updated Resources:

- [Talking to Kids about the Violence at the Capitol](#)
- [I'm Only A Kid, There's Nothing I Can Do About Global Warming, Right?](#)
- [Treasure Box Tuesday](#)
- [Combatting Racism](#)
- [The Dangers of Social Media](#)
- [Resources in response to the coronavirus](#)
- [Talking with Children about the Coronavirus](#)
- [Building Up Your Digital Repertoire](#)
- [Mapping the Decisions for Faith Formation 2020-21](#)



FOR MORE NEW RESOURCES CLICK HERE!

www.catholicfamilyfaith.org

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STRONG CATHOLIC FAMILY FAITH

HOME FAITH PRACTICE CHURCH YEAR SACRAMENTS FAMILY MEDIA LEADERSHIP MORE...



NEW TO THE SITE

www.catholicfamilyfaith.org

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www.catholicfamilyfaith.org

FAITH PRACTICE

Learning the Faith

- Cross Boss TV
- A Monthly Craft Idea to Help Children Grow in Faith

Praying

- The Examen-a daily prayer practice
- Pray As You Go

Catholic Social Teachings - Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- Combating Racism
- The Way of Human Dignity

CHURCH YEAR

Mass/Sunday Worship & Lectionary Resources

- Catholic Feast Days

FAMILY

Parenting Adolescents

- Cyber Bullying: How to Protect Your Teen
- Discussing Relationships and Dating

Partnering with Parents

- Catechetical Leadership: On Family Faith Formation in the Parish
- Resources for Families During the Coronavirus Outbreak
- Fun and Educational Things to do with the Kids while at Home

Let's Talk About...

- Helping Kids Process Violence Trauma and Race in a World of Nonstop News
- What Can I Say to My Kids about Racism and Violence
- Talking to Kids about the Violence at the Capitol

MEDIA

New Movies

- Family Movies to Get Excited about in 2021!

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Lent

- Breaking Open the Word- Lent- Cycle B
- Ash Wednesday
- Lenten Resources for Adults, Families and Children
- Lenten Videos
- Stations of the Cross
- Holy Week
- St. Patrick's Day
- St. Joseph's Day
- The Annunciation of the Lord

Current Events

- Patris Corde, (With a Father's Heart), Apostolic Letter

Documentaries for Parents and Teens

- Kiss the Ground
- The Social Dilemma

Using Social Media Wisely

- Digital Citizenship

LEADERSHIP

Leadership Organizations

- The new IN WORD AND WITNESS (formerly known as NCCL)

Learning New Approaches

- Families Forming Disciples from the Archdiocese of Atlanta
- The Family Zone: a playlist newsletter from the Diocese of Richmond
- Including People with Disabilities in the New Year Planning

www.catholicfamilyfaith.org

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Lifelong Faith HOME CHALLENGE DESIGN PLAYLISTS TOOLS CURATE PRACTICES BOOKS CART (0)

Designing Faith Formation Playlists

Understanding Playlists

Faith Formation 2.0 is designed as online **Playlists** of curated content and experiences focusing on a particular theme or topic. A playlist weaves together these learning experiences into a sequenced pathway centered on a common theme. Playlists broaden opportunities to engage in cohesive, interest-driven connected learning experiences that combine a variety of settings for learning: online, peers, families, intergenerational, community, and world.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING: A JOURNEY THROUGH YEAR ONE
 Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design
 Roots Elementary
 Sabin World School

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<https://designingfaithstl.weebly.com/prayer-playlist-example.html>

Below is a sample of just a start of a digital playlist for prayer:

Creating a sacred space at home

Create a prayer space at home with your family. Let every person choose or make something that will go in the prayer space. 30 minutes half a day.

How to Plan a Place for Prayer at Home

To get started, discuss these questions together as a family:

- Where will this space be?
- Is there a comfortable, quiet place in your home where you could locate your prayer space?
- What items will you include in your prayer space?
- Why did you choose those items?
- What special meaning do they hold for your family?
- When will you gather in this space as a family?

Consider including in your Prayer Space:

- Bible, rosary, or cross
- Photos or pictures of the Holy Family, Mary, Jesus, or Saints
- money
- holywaterfont
- candles
- Rosary (or rosary bracelet)
- Symbols of wisdom or inspiration written by Saints or people of faith

More ideas on creating a sacred prayer space:

- Description of St. "Catherine" at home
- Stair the Disciples of Christ
- Stair the Disciples of Christ

Check Out Pop-Up Calendars with Joe Paprocki
Creating a Peace Space in Your Home (Lynette Frost)

Make that you have a home prayer space:

- This regularly in your home after
- Take a picture of the space and share it with us by email: [email], or in social media: _____

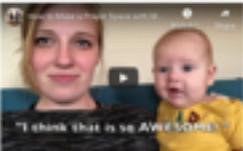
Prayer Table

Find more from John Holloway at www.catholicfamilycenter.com



How to Create a Prayer Space with Mrs. Savannah

Families Growing in Faith - Elkhart City



Praying Outside

10-40 minutes

You can also create a prayer space outside on a bench, with a cross, a statue of Mary, or of a favorite saint.

Where do you most feel the presence of God? A prayer chair? A prayer corner? On a nature walk? A quiet lakeside or along the beach? Pay attention to the spaces where you most know God is with you. Spend time in that space. Nurture that relationship. Help your children do the same. Discover your child's "God Language!"



Go for a prayer walk. Notice what calls your attention on the walk. Give thanks for the things that create a sense of awe in you, the things you find beautiful, the things that make you smile.

Family Prayer Walk Coronavirus Resource

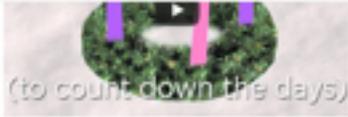
From Ministry Sparks, this family prayer walk will help families and children walk out giving their worries to God! This writing teacher, children that they can trust God even when their lives are difficult. Grab these free resources, share with families, and help kids release their biggest worries to God!

Leader's Guide Family Prayer Walk Kit's Page

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ADVENT PLAYLIST

Home **Advent Basics** Advent Action The Nativity Scene Advent Wreaths More...



(to count down the days)

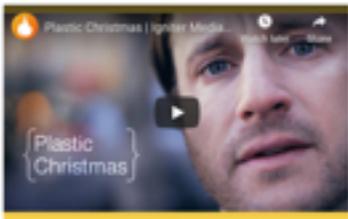
3 minutes or less:
Watch Advent in 2 Minutes to get a brief 101 on Advent. Name one thing that stands out.



CHOCOLATE CALENDAR

10 minutes or less:
Watch this short reflection by Fr. Mike and reflect on what Advent really means to you. How will you make room for Jesus this year?

www.stjudeadventplaylist.weebly.com



Plastic Christmas | Spinner Media

5 minutes or less
Is your Christmas real? Watch this video and discuss the elements of your Christmas that help keep your family's focus on the real meaning of the season.



Advent: Waiting For Jesus

10 minutes to a whole afternoon
Using the song "I Will Wait" (Mumford & Sons) we are reminded of the many ways we wait for Jesus during the season: Advent calendars, Advent wreaths, setting up nativity scenes, and Christmas trees, preparing to celebrate Christ's coming. Talk about your own family traditions. Or make your own Advent video using Animoto (animoto.com) and your own photos of Christmas present and past.



Christmas Peace - Advent Carols

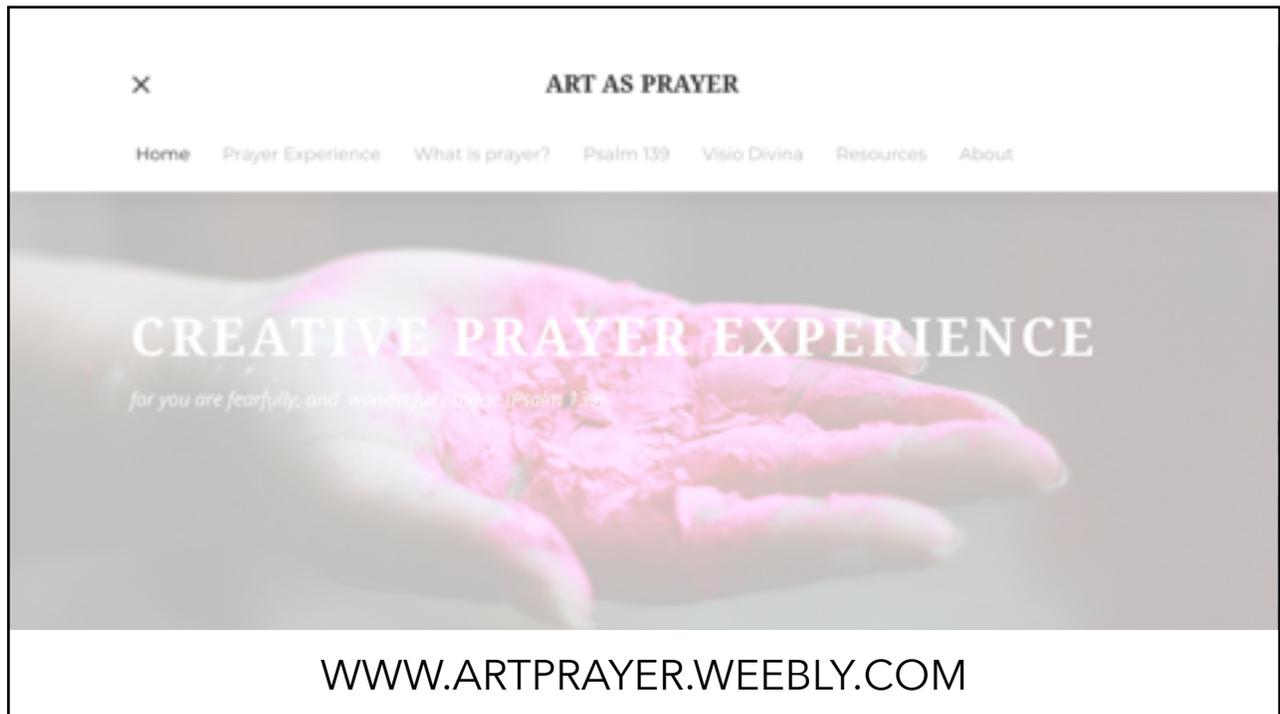


BEST ADVENT EVER

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Digital Tools for Family Programming

- A Digital Platform for Faith Formation: Websites – Weebly, Squarespace, Wix
- Video Conferencing & Streaming: Zoom, Facebook Live, YouTube Live
- Group Interaction: Facebook Groups
- Communication Tools: Email, Texting
- Social Media Tools: Facebook, Instagram
- Online Learning Platforms: Edmodo, Google Classroom
- Digital Learning Apps



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THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA **Evangelization** HOME THE PROCESS TOOLS CONTACT US ABOUT

<https://www.evangelizationatl.com>

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A hybrid, family-focused approach to faith formation

Disponible en Español

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OVERVIEW

Families Forming Disciples is a hybrid, family-focused, thematic-activity approach where groups of families meet with catechists online and/or in-person to encounter the Lord together and to encourage each other to live as the Domestic Church in and through their home and family life.

The Office of Formation and Discipleship is offering *Families Forming Disciples* as a specific way to assist parish catechetical leaders, catechists, and parents/families in the 2020-2021 faith formation year. By seeking to engage families in renewed ways, the hope is that the experiences and learning over this year will help all of us in taking a next step to advance family evangelization and faith formation.

More information for leaders is available on Archatl.com.

- [To ministry leaders and parents](#)
- [Planning ahead](#)

PARISH PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

[Click Here to View](#)

Introduction from Archbishop Hartmayer

Archbishop Hartmayer, OFM, Conv. introduc...

LESSON SAMPLES

Given the unprecedented time in which we are living, the Office of Formation & Discipleship is providing 27 weeks of sample lessons for catechists to consider integrating in their faith formation curriculum.

The lessons are intended to be used either virtually or in person and can be adapted and changed as necessary.

The ultimate goal of the lessons is to encourage families to pray together and

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Introducing Families Forming Disciples (FFD) to Parents

PDF PPT
Intro Lesson

PDF PDF
Four Keys for Practicing Faith A Three Week Model

<https://www.evangelizationatl.com>

LESSON 1
Weeks 1-3
Family as Domestic Church

PDF PPT PDF PPT

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Topic: Introducing *Families Forming Disciples* (FFD) to Parents

REFERENCES:

Acts 16: 31-34
CCC: 2223-2226

GOALS:

Welcome and prepare parents to participate in FFD; affirm their role as primary educators in the faith and reassure the support of the parish

<https://www.evangelizationatl.com>

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Family Sharing

Has your family experienced any of the ways that the time of COVID-19 has been like a desert? If yes, what are they?

What are some of the little and/or great challenges your family has faced during the pandemic?

What are some good things that have happened during this time?

What good have you gained from going through this experience together as a family, as a faith community?

Do you think your family has grown closer to one another and/or to God?

<https://www.evangelizationatl.com>

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P A N D E M I C
F A I T H

A FAMILY DEVOTIONAL FOR LIFE DURING COVID-19

<http://www.hopelutheranrf.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Pandemic-Faith-Devotional-2.pdf>

<https://www.wichurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Pandemic-Hope-Devotional.pdf>

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MAPPING THE DECISIONS FOR FAITH FORMATION 2020-2021

Which faith formation approach is best for your situation in 2020-21?

Once you know the "situation on the ground" then develop your plan. The continuum below offers three approaches for faith formation. You might develop another option along the continuum that is right for your community. Don't plan for the whole year. Plan for one 4-month season at a time (Sept-Dec, Jan-April, May-Aug) so that you can monitor the situation and adapt. You may start with one approach in the Sept-Dec, and move to a different approach in Jan-April, in response to conditions in your community. Stay flexible.

Gathered In-Person Faith Formation in Physical Spaces **Hybrid Faith Formation in Physical & Virtual Spaces** **Online Faith Formation**

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