



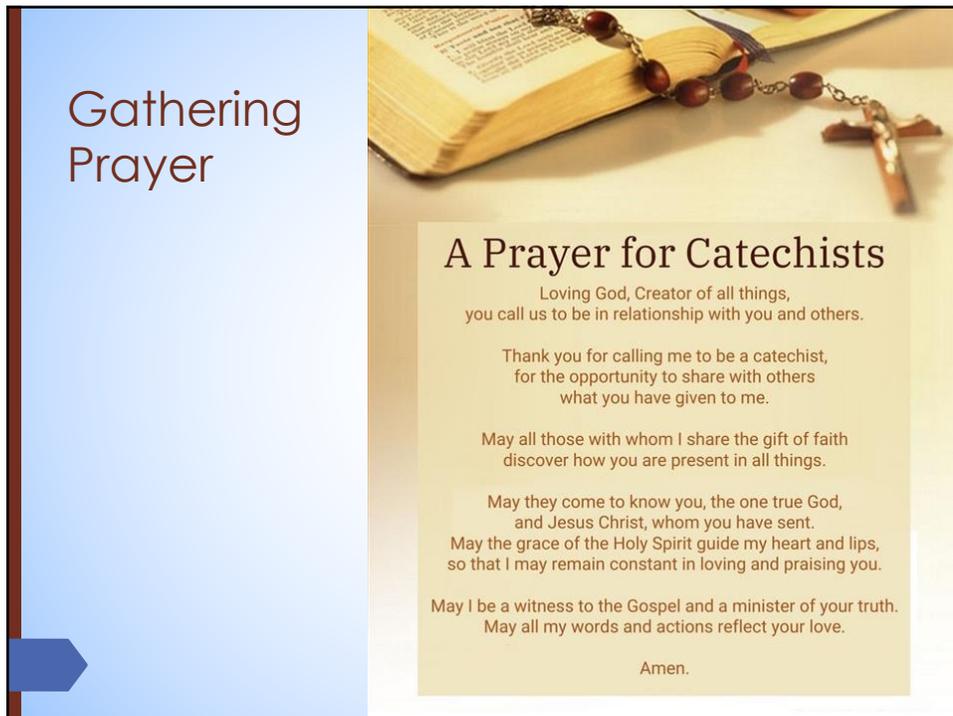
Designing Hybrid Faith Formation

Archdiocese of Chicago
February 8, 2022

Catzel LaVecchia, MAPM, MARE



1



Gathering Prayer



A Prayer for Catechists

Loving God, Creator of all things,
you call us to be in relationship with you and others.

Thank you for calling me to be a catechist,
for the opportunity to share with others
what you have given to me.

May all those with whom I share the gift of faith
discover how you are present in all things.

May they come to know you, the one true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.
May the grace of the Holy Spirit guide my heart and lips,
so that I may remain constant in loving and praising you.

May I be a witness to the Gospel and a minister of your truth.
May all my words and actions reflect your love.

Amen.

2

What Are We Learning in this Liminal Space

We are focusing on our people—their needs, struggles, life issues, and more. We are becoming more person-centered.

We are expanding our vision of where church and faith formation happens. We've moved from a church-building mindset to a multi-space approach where faith forming happens at home, in online spaces, in small groups, in mentoring relationships, in independent learning, in the world.

3

What Are We Learning

We are using new approaches (and tools, methods, and media)—many of which have been available to us for a decade—that the pandemic has motivated (forced?) us to use as integral to faith formation.

We are offering faith formation in synchronous (real time) and **asynchronous** (on your own time) formats with Online and Hybrid approaches—thereby expanding the opportunities for people to engage in faith forming experiences.

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What Are We Learning



- We are making faith formation mobile**—bringing faith formation to where people live using the new digital tools, methods, and media. We are creating playlists of faith forming content for all ages.
- We are usually traditional tools in new digital ways.**
- We are using social media platforms for connection and sharing.** We are connecting and communicating with people of all ages, sharing and discussing faith and spirituality, engaging people to share what they are learning and how they are practicing their faith through videos, images, stories, and more.

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How do we create a church and plan for faith formation that is...

**Adaptive
Responsive
Resilient
Flexible
Inclusive**

**Its time to
Reinvent
Reimagine
Innovate
in
Faith Formation**



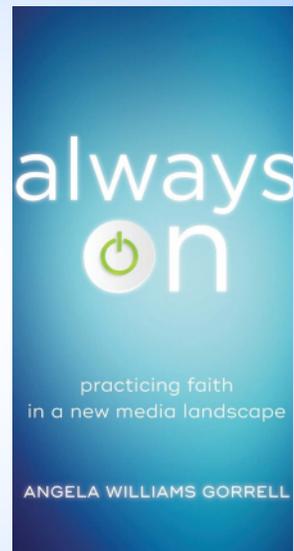
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Hybridity

Recognizing online actions as meaning-filled helps Christian communities to consider our current online and in-person reality in terms of its hybridity, rather than in terms of digital dualism (think of online as virtual and in person as real). "Hybridity," describes "the coming together of online and offline, media and matter, or more dynamically. . . the interplay between the online and offline dimension."

Most Americans live hybrid lives because our online and offline lives have been integrated. Interactions online shape offline experiences, and offline communication and practices shape people's online engagement.

-Angela Gorrell, *Always On*



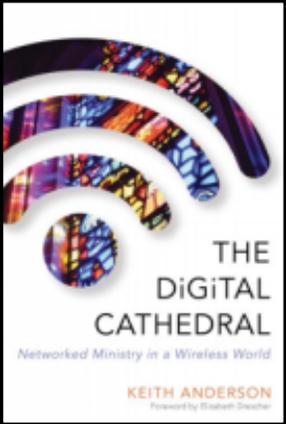
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Hybrid Christian communities embody God's love and "make the message believable" through meaningful conversations and faithful habits that are both in person and mediated, that take place at various times, and that happen in both physical and digital spaces.

I do not think it is too daunting for Christian communities to think about their community as being hybrid, given Paul's letters and specifically his use of the metaphor of the "body of Christ." Paul's letters are a clear example of hybrid Christian communities, since his letters were extensions of his in-person ministry within particular communities and also provided mediated guidance for those communities. It is possible to nurture a hybrid Christian community.

Many Christian communities are hybrid Christian communities (though they would probably not use this terminology) because they are nurturing relationships, growing spiritually, and engaging in ministry in person and online. Through social media, members are cultivating connections online that are not that different from the relationships that prevailed before the internet and mobile phones. (Gorrell 50-51)

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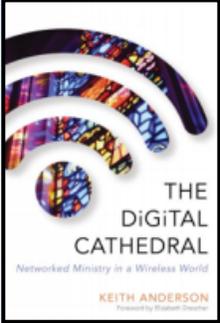


...the cathedral was not just a monumental building, as we often think of it today, but rather a **networked, relational, incarnational community** that included people with a surprising range of beliefs and practices. Within premodern cathedral grounds were breweries and bakeries, granaries and gardens, monasteries and markets.

Beyond the walls, the cathedral proper extended to the forests, fields, and villages where a diverse array of ordinary believers found the sacred in their waking and their sleeping, their toils and their leisure. **People lived life fully “in cathedral”**—in relationship to one another within an expansive, everyday understanding of “church.”

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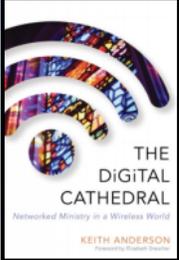
Well, today, the places that are “in cathedral” are both local and digital—coffee shops, pubs, and parks; Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram—as well as in the digitally-integrated connections people with smartphones and tablets make between their local participation and their digital networks.



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What if we were to reclaim this larger sense of “cathedral” and “church”—one that encompasses our daily working and living, that includes both local spaces like pubs, coffee shops, and parks, but also digital gathering spaces such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube?

How can we understand all of these online and offline spaces as part of an expansive, **networked** whole? And how would this shift our practice of ministry, our leadership, and our assumptions about the loci of spiritual practice?



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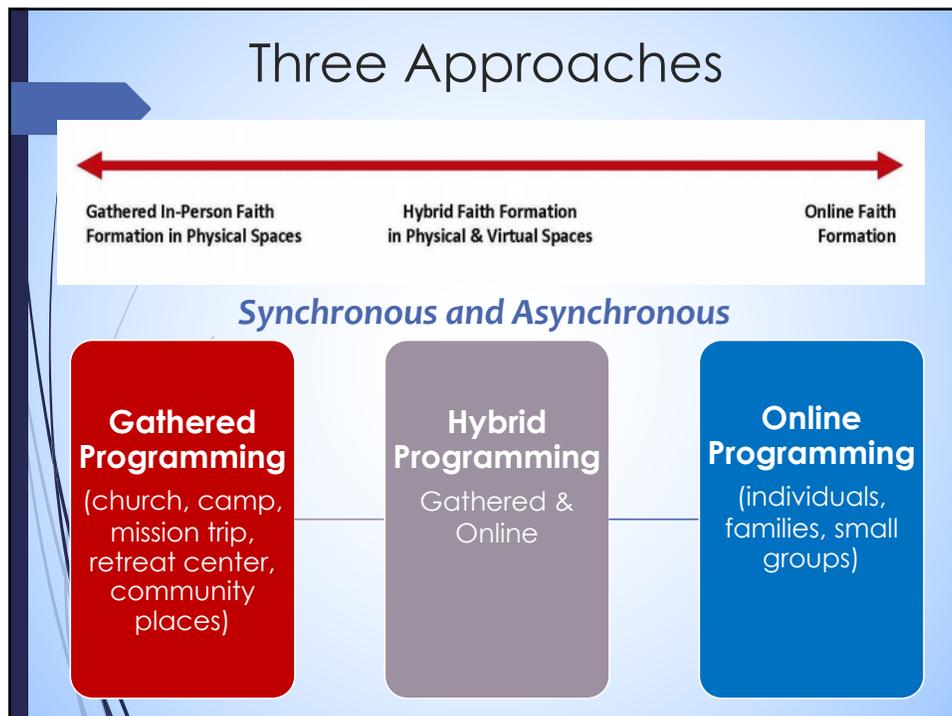
Expanding Our Reach



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- Hybrid faith formation is the integration of in-person faith forming with online faith forming into one holistic integrated experience. A program design can begin online and then move to in-person and back to online or it can begin in-person and continue online. Hybrid programming can be synchronous (real time) and asynchronous (on your own time)—thereby expanding the opportunities for people to engage in faith-forming experiences that are responsive to their time, commitments, and availability.
- We can deliver synchronous faith formation using physical gatherings, livestreaming, video conferencing, online courses, and online small groups. We can deliver asynchronous faith formation using online playlists, video and audio programs, online discussion groups, online learning platforms, websites, and more.

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Hybrid Example #1

From In-Person to Online

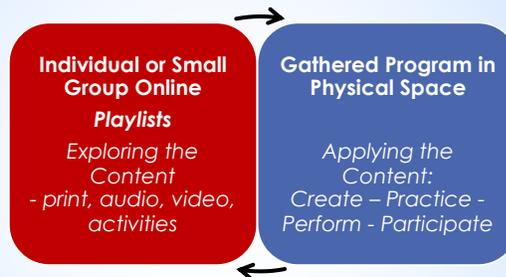
Worship & Online Formation

- Participate in weekly worship (in-person or live streamed)
- Engage in faith forming activities using an online playlist on Sunday's theme: prayers, readings, video, podcast, art, music, creative activities, conversations, action ideas, etc.

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Hybrid Example #2

Both Online & In-Person "Flipped Classroom" Model



The Flipped Learning Model is very helpful when it is difficult to gather people, such as preparation for a sacrament or milestone. We can prepare people online with the appropriate content (experiences, activities, video/audio, and resources); then engage them in-person for the event or program; and sustain and apply the experience through online faith formation.

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Hybrid “Flipped” Example

Adolescent Confirmation Program

- **On Your Own:** Engage young people with a monthly learning playlist—watching videos, reading short articles, praying, writing reflections in a journal—on the theme.
- **In a Small Group:** Have young people participate in one small group experience (online) to discuss the content in the playlist and what they are learning.
- **In a Large Group:** Involve young people in a monthly gathering (in person) with all groups for community sharing, interactive activities, short presentations, and ideas for living faith.

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Hybrid Example #3

In-Person & Online with Video Meetings

- Week #1: Live Stream Presentation
- Week #2: Engage in online faith forming experiences using a playlist on the theme.
- Week #3: Small Groups on Zoom
- Week #4: Action Projects in Teams (in person)
- Week #5: Group Gathering to reflect and Debrief (in person or online)
- *Facebook group or online meeting space leads to sustained interaction and connections

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Hybrid Example #4

From In-Person to Online

In-Person & Live Streamed or Video & Online

- Week #1: Meet in-person for the program.
- Week #2: Engage in online faith forming experiences using a playlist on the theme.
- Week #3: Conduct a livestream presentation or demonstration or prerecorded video (using Zoom, Facebook Live, or YouTube Live) on the theme of the month's program.
- Week #4: Continue with the playlist learning on the theme.

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Hybrid Example #5

Online & In-Person

Online Faith Formation + In-Person Small Group Gatherings

- Week #1: Online learning session using a playlist on a faith formation website.
- Week #2: Small group gatherings (10 or fewer) to discuss and apply the learning
- Week #3: Online learning session
- Week #4: Small group gatherings to discuss and apply the learning

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Example: Bible Study: Gospel of Mark

Sessions

1. Popularity breeds contempt
2. What kind of kingdom?
3. Thou art all compassion
4. Dense disciples
5. Who is he? Who are we?
6. A healthy insomnia
7. A soldier's epiphany
8. The empty tomb effect

Programming Option examples

- ✓ Gathered
 - ✓ Large group
 - ✓ Small group
- ✓ Online
 - ✓ Independent learning
 - ✓ Small group learning by online (Zoom)
- ✓ Hybrid
 - ✓ Complete the online session on your own + meet in small group

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The screenshot shows a website for 'The Gospel of Mark' course. At the top, it lists presenters Rev. Dr. David L. Bartlett and Rev. Dr. Allen R. Hilton, and categories for Gospels. Below this is a central image of a religious painting depicting Jesus with his disciples. Underneath the image is a curriculum overview table:

| Section | Duration |
|---|----------|
| Introduction to the Course | 2 |
| Introduction to the Course | |
| Introduction to the Course - Additional Resources | |
| Week 1: Popularity Breeds Contempt | 4 |
| Popularity Breeds Contempt - Video | 15 min |
| Popularity Breeds Contempt - Study Guide | |
| Popularity Breeds Contempt - Discussion Questions | |
| Popularity Breeds Contempt - Additional Resources | |
| Week 2: What Kind of Kingdom? | 4 |

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Example



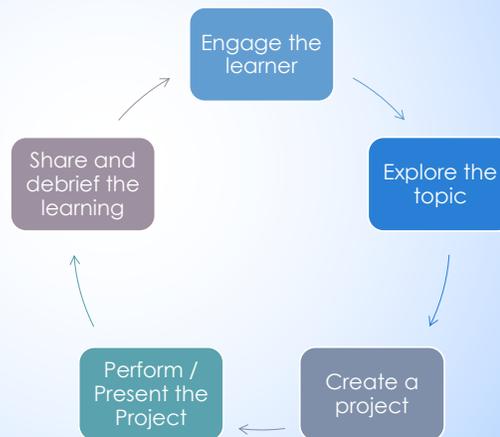
Our Confirmation preparation program has two components: Once a month in-person classes and an online study. The online study is a place for students to develop their faith weekly by completing multi-media lessons which include videos, reading, Saint reflections, multiple-choice questions and online small group discussions. Each small group has their own online space to discuss faith topics, ask questions, and pray for one another.

- Class Sessions - Once a month (7 in total/year)
- Online Sessions - 3 per month
- "Insight" Youth Group Meetings - Attend 3 per year
- Service Projects - 2 per year
- Retreat - Year 1 and 2

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Designing Playlists: Learning Process

1. Engage
2. Explore
3. Create
4. Perform/
Present



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Children & Family Playlist

February 10, 2019: Call of the Disciples - Luke 5:1-11



The Gospel Reading Luke 5:1-11: www.usccb.org/bible/readings/021019.cfm
Take a few moments as a parent to reflect on the Gospel of Jesus calling the disciples: www.americانبible.org/resources/lectio-divina

For background on Luke's Gospel, watch the video of Luke 3 - 9. Focus on Luke 5 which is around 2 minutes into the video: [Gospel of Luke Video](#)

Read the Gospel together: [Luke 5:1-11](#)

Do a coloring page together of Jesus calling the disciples.

[call_of_the_disciples.pdf](#)
[Download File](#)

Symbol of the Week

Cut small fish shapes cut out of paper for the children to color. Place these fish shapes in a clear glass bowl on the center of the table. Read the Gospel story together once or twice during the week. Talk about how Jesus calls us to follow him today.

The Call of the Disciples



Children's Storybook

Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun: Having the Courage to Be Who You Are
 by **Maria Dismondy** (Written for ages 4-11)

Likely after a long night of work, the fishermen were washing their nets and preparing to return to their homes when Jesus comes along and asks Simon to take him out in his boat. Jesus tells Simon to put his net back out into the water, and Simon hesitates for he'd already tried to catch fish all night long and caught nothing. But Simon does as Jesus says, trusting that Jesus has special powers. He fishes his net out. Then, as the disciples...

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Adult Thematic Playlist

September - A Month of Gratitude

The spiritual practice of gratitude has been called a state of mind and a way of life. But we prefer to think of it as a **grammar** — an underlying structure that helps us construct and make sense out of our lives. The rules of this grammar come from our activities. Its syntax reveals a system of relationships (asking us to be drawn into every other part of the practice).

To learn the grammar of gratitude, practice saying "thank you" for happy and challenging experiences, for people, animals, things, art, memories, dreams. Count your blessings, and praise God. Utter blessings, and express your appreciation to something and someone you encounter. Its blessing, we are blessed.

Frederic and Mary Ann Brennan (@spirituallywithfrederic)

Learn

Want to be Happy? Be Grateful

The one thing all humans have in common is that each of us wants to be happy. And Brother David shared that in a novel and even both whether that happiness is born from gratitude. An inspiring lesson in always seeing, finding, and being grateful. Go to [this](#) to learn more and read the transcript.

For a podcast of Dr. David's interview with Krista Tippett about gratitude, go to: [On Being with Krista Tippett](#).

Live

Basic, Daily Gratefulness Practice

If each day we could engage in a "basic daily gratefulness practice" it would be enough to positively impact our lives and the world around us. Just because a practice is simple does not mean it has simple results. Even though you might choose to try this practice in a more formal way at the same time each day, it can be done anytime, anywhere, and as often as you want. Go to [Gratitude.org](#) for to experience the practice.

Gratitude Through the Day

Gratitude, like any other spiritual practice, is something we do, not just something we think about in contemplating we need to practice. To practice gratitude, we don't need a special outdoor or indoor location, nor a special lamp or light, nor a special time or which figure, nor special moments to practice, nor special prayer books to begin, nor a special prayer or mantra to recite. (There are lots of ways to do it, but not all are appropriate. It may well help, it is simply not enough.)

What is enough is here and now. The Psalmist reminds us, "This is the day that the LORD has made for us to rejoice and be glad in" (Ps. 118: 24). Gratitude comes over our life and makes us feel. Because it makes us really available to the real presence of Christ, who is all with us and around us — one. We hope you'll try out these four simple practices and see how they change your day.

1 am - Pray Your Gratitude
 2 am - Keep Your Gratitude
 3 pm - Express Your Gratitude
 4 pm - Share Your Gratitude

Go to [Gratitude Through the Day](#) video.

Pray

Gratitude Prayer for the Month

Gracious God, in the business of my day, I sometimes forget to stop to thank You for all that is good in my life. My thoughts are many, and my heart is divided with gratitude for the gift of living, for the ability to love and be loved, for the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation, for sleep and wake, for a mother that loves me and a brother that feels I love you, for the chance to give of my life that you know that I would hope there to be. Though that seems challenging, either as a gift, when my heart feels separated and empty and yours of love flows in my every eye, and I realize that you are as near to me as my hand to my head and that in the midst of substance, I am growing and learning, in the absence of my need, I thank you most of all for your unconditional and eternal love, Amen.

Psalms on Gratitude

Read and reflect on the Psalm each week. Click on the title for the Psalm's.

Week 1 - Psalm 68 and Psalm 103
Week 2 - Psalm 103
Week 3 - Psalm 103
Week 4 - Psalm 103

Read, Listen, & Watch

Articles

• [Read "Ten Words That Will Change Your Life" by Eric Besenher to learn how gratitude helps healthy habits begin God's grace.](#)

Book

[A Grateful Day](#)

This moving book offers gratitude for the blessing of life and the everyday wonder and beauty of nature. It was inspired by the short film *Gratitude* — a viral video sensation by author and filmmaker Leah Olschansky, recently featured on Oprah's Super Soul Sunday. The book and film give us a daily vision of gratitude — the Internet phenomenon "A Grateful Day" written by renowned spiritual leader Brother David Steindl-Rast — with stunning images by Schwaninger. This inspirational package includes not just the book but a DVD with two short films by Schwaninger (including *Gratitude* and *Brother David's own "A Grateful Day"* video). The last page has a link to the "A Grateful Day" audio track, which you can use to create your own video or slide show on what you are grateful for.

• [Purchase at Amazon.com.](#)

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Michigan Conference UMC Children's Ministry

"Faith & Family Playlist" Rev. Kathy Pittenger

<https://michiganumc.org/resources/childrens-ministry-toolbox/faith-family-playlists>

DO NOT BE AFRAID PLAYLIST

CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION ▼

CLERGY ▼

LOCAL CHURCH ▼

Fear, Anxiety, and Jesus

The world has felt the lid turned upside down for many people across the United States and the world over the last few weeks. The playlist below focuses on acknowledging fear and trusting in God.



Need something else?
Need another resource? Looking for advice? Please contact [Kathy Pittenger](mailto:Kathy.Pittenger@umc.org).

Bible Story

- Read Psalm 23 from a children's Story Bible or a child-friendly version of the Bible or watch it [here](#).
- Wonder about the story together (you can wonder without having "right" answers).
 - I wonder what it feels like to be afraid.
 - I wonder what it feels like to feel safe.
 - I wonder what God's house looks like!
 - I wonder how we know that God is with us, especially when we are feeling scared or afraid.
- Reflection
 - Draw a picture, or use play-doh or Lego to create a picture of what you think Psalm 23 looks like.

Books

The books referenced here will, as much as possible, either be in a digital format or read-on-line so you have access to them as many library services are closed.

- [Ezekiel's Soul Army](#) by L.J. Zimmerman
Read [Ezekiel's Soul Army](#) online [here](#)
- [It Will Be Okay: Trusting God Through Fear and Change](#) (Little Seed & Little Fox) by Lyssa TerKeurs [available from Amazon Prime](#)

Activities

- Help [Empower Kids to Fight Their Fears](#) (Create adorable monsters with scripture verses on them to help when kids feel afraid)
- Print and color [Prayers for when you feel anxious from IllustrationsMinistry.com](#) (click on the "Get Resources" button)
- Make a gratitude chain
 - My kids (ages 8 and 11) were joking that we should make a paper tree and "scarve" a dash on it for every day that we get to social distance ourselves. Then we talked about creating a gratitude chain - we will write something we are grateful for or someone we are praying for on a piece of paper every day and create a paper chain to hang in our dining room. It's a visual way to mark time and remember all the people and things we are grateful for and are praying for.

Music




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First Presbyterian, Stillwater, OK

<https://www.fpcfaithfulfamilies.com>

FAITH IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD

Anxiety is on the rise in our world, and not just because we're in the midst of a pandemic. How do we respond to the anxiety we feel? What might God be helping us through our anxiety? And how does our faith guide us in healthy ways to cope? The resources here will supplement what we're discussing in our FFF Zoom meetings each week.

READ/WATCH/LISTEN

Read
Spend some time reflecting on these stories where Jesus Himself "gets in the boat" with the disciples during an anxious time.
[Mark 6:35-51](#)
[Luke 8:1-11](#)

Watch
Four videos from the series "Faith in an Anxious World" (Fuller Study Institute)

- [Session 1 - Life in an Anxious World](#)
- [Session 2 - Life in a Relational World](#)
- [Session 3 - Faith in a Hurting World](#)
- [Session 4 - Life in a Thriving World](#)

WONDER

I WONDER...

Wonder:

- What's making your boat feel unsteady lately? Make a list of your anxieties.
- I wonder what God might be trying to tell you? Where do you see God at work in the midst of your anxiety?
- I wonder what healthy ways you've tried to learn to cope with stress?
- I wonder who in your life you can talk to safely about the anxieties you're experiencing?

PRAY

PRAYER CHALLENGE

Examen

- Recognize God's presence with you.
- Reflect on your "highs" from the day. For what moment am I most grateful? When did I give and receive the most love? When did I feel most alive today?
- Reflect on your "lows" from the day. For what moment am I least grateful? When did I give and receive the least love? When did I most feel life draining from me?
- Pray the day. Share with God - praise, thanksgiving, repentance, forgiveness, and petitions that come from the day.

Regular mindfulness/review of your day using an ancient spiritual practice called the *examen* is a helpful way not only to connect with God, but to also manage anxiety.

Three options for practicing Examen:
 1. Use the Prayer Challenge posted here.
 2. Download the "Reimagining Examen" app on your device.
 3. Use this series of videos from Fuller Studies to guide you through the prayer.

DO

Grow Your Circle

Who is your trusted circle of adults you feel comfortable calling on when you need to talk about how you feel?

Check in with one of these adults this week. Share what you find making you anxious lately and ask if they can share any helpful practices to listen to and learn from their anxiety.

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Learning Process Approach – Completely Online

Week 1. Engage the learner in the topic or theme (synchronous)

- Synchronous live streamed session to “gather” the group, introduce the topic/theme, and show how it connects to the life of the learner. Methods: presentation, demonstration, video, storytelling, etc.

Week 2. Explore the topic of theme (asynchronous)

- Learners select one or more activities that go deeper into the topic or theme. This can take many forms (video, audio, text, reading, prayer or ritual, etc.)

Week 3. Practice and demonstrate learning (asynchronous)

- Learners use a variety of methods to create an activity, individually or with others in the group, that demonstrate learning. Learning apps can provide a creative way to design an activity.

Week 4. Perform and present the project (synchronous)

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Four-Week Program Plan

Week 1 - Live In-Person Experience OR Live Stream Presentation/Demonstration on the Theme of the month (**synchronous**)

Week 2 & 3 - Home Family Experience (**asynchronous**)

- Individual family or groupings of families
- Online playlist of age-appropriate faith formation activities on the theme
- Resources for parent enrichment on the theme

Week 4. Creating a Project and Sharing It (**synchronous or asynchronous**)

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ADVENT EXPERIMENT

What: Try a new personal, family faith habit or grandparent/grandchild faith habit for the season of Advent, pausing for 5 minutes, 10 minutes, or more, each day to encounter God.

Why: Advent lends itself to faith habits and home practices, which is good, as while these four weeks are full of spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus, they are also full of the rush of the holidays.

How:

- Sign up to receive four weekly Advent Experiment emails with links to a Bible verse for each day of Advent, prayers, tips, tools and resources to help you and your family, grow in faith throughout Advent.
- Advent Experiment options, ideas and suggestions are below.

When: Advent begins Sunday, December 1 and ends Tuesday, December 24.

E-Newsletter

ADVENT EXPERIMENT OPTIONS

Pick and choose faith habits for your Advent Experiment

Families with Children/Youth

a) **Everyday Immanuel daily Bible reading with the Faith 5***
Gather with your family by candlelight, flashlight, car light, or wherever you are, and:

- Share your highs and lows.
- Read a verse/passage from the Bible (We've selected verses for each day, in Advent. Print a copy.)
- Talk about how they connect with your life.
- Pray for one another (turn highs and lows into thanks and asks)
- Bless one another

b) **In Light & Darkness: An Illustrated Advent for Families**

- Questions and discussion topics in each devotion work for your children, no matter the age. Feel free to tweak the content and questions to work for your family.
- The devotionals and Advent calendars will be printed and given to Sunday School and God Squad children/families on Sunday, Dec. 1. A limited number of the Christmas Shadow Box templates will be printed on card-stock and available for pickup on Sunday, Dec. 1.

In Light & Darkness Resources:

- Order a Christmas Shadow Box Theatre
- Advent Calendar: Print the calendar and the daily discussion questions
- Week 1 (Dec. 1-7): The Darkness did not Overcome
- Week 2 (Dec. 8-14): Vision in the Night
- Week 3 (Dec. 15-21): Christening Lights
- Week 4 (Dec. 22-24): Readjusting to the Dark
- Christmas Eve & Christmas Day: The Light has entered the World

c) **Make or buy an Advent wreath for your home. Super simple to craft and, creative ideas.**

d) **Take Fiat Michael** with you this Advent! Michael is an angel, and there's lots of angels popping up in the Advent and Christmas stories! You could post your adventures with Michael on social media with the hashtag #FiatMichael. Pick up a Fiat Michael this Sunday or on Dec. 1, or print your own. Things you could do with Michael:

- light the Advent candles
- say bedtime prayers
- help you decorate the Christmas tree or Christmas cookies
- join your family for the Faith 5
- come along to church with you

Adults

a) **Bible Readings in Advent:**

- Sign up to receive four weekly Advent Experiment emails with links to a Bible verse for each day of Advent, prayers, tips, tools and resources to help you and your family, grow in faith this Advent. (You'll receive links to both the NRSV and The Message versions, and/or.)
- Access the Advent Experiment Bible verses on your phone for use during the tracks and devotion times.
- Print a handout with the Advent Experiment Bible verses.

b) One Advent devotion each week of Advent. Print or access here.

c) Make or buy an Advent wreath for your home. Options for you to explore

d) Light a single candle and sit quietly in reflective prayer. You may have a special place, or by your Christmas tree.

Sign up for the Advent Experiment

For All Ages

a) **AdventExperiment Photo Challenge:** Post a photo of how you are experiencing or encountering Immanuel - God with us - in Advent. You can share it online using #AdventExperiment (Please tag Immanuel). You can also email your photo to caats@immanuel.us.

b) Fill your home, car or ear buds with a Spotify Advent selection: **Advent Conspiracy: Warlike on Sunday!** (or create your own playlist).

c) Find a way to serve others, sharing hope, peace, joy and love. Immanuel provides lots of specific ways to serve! **See the current and upcoming service opportunities.**

d) Each week reflect and discuss a question by candlelight:
 Week 1 - Hope: What does it mean to have hope as we wait for Jesus' birth?
 Week 2 - Peace: What does it mean to have peace as we wait for Jesus' birth?
 Week 3 - Joy: What does it mean to have joy as we wait for Jesus' birth?
 Week 4 - Love: What does it mean to have love as we wait for Jesus' birth?

e) **Read an Advent Prayer** each week

Sign up to receive four weekly Advent Experiment emails with links to a Bible verse for each day of Advent, prayers, tips, tools and resources to help you, and your family, grow in faith throughout Advent.

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JANUARY 6, 2020
EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

taking faith home

God's light shines through Jesus.

EPIPHANY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Epiphany celebration.

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| Monday | Matthew 2:1-12 | The wise men worship Jesus |
| | Isaiah 60:1-6 | The glory of God shines on the people |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR EPIPHANY

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. **Isaiah 60:1 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Epiphany:
Dear God, in Jesus you show your glory to the nations. Come, Holy Spirit, bless all the nations of the world with peace, joy, and love. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:
Lord God, as the star shone over Bethlehem to reveal the presence of your Son, may this meal remind us that this food is a gift of your love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:
May the light of Christ bring you peace and joy.

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JANUARY 6, 2020
HYMN FOR EPIPHANY
Rise, Shine, You People!

taking faith home

EPIPHANY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Why do some people fear other people they don't know?
- How does the light of Christ help us to conquer our fears?
- A star led the wise men to Jesus. What leads you to Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 2:1-12.

People of another religion and another part of the ancient world used astrology to guide them to Jesus, and it worked. God wants the world to be blessed by the light of Christ that shines from Bethlehem to Jerusalem and on to the ends of the earth. It is God's powerful light that has entered the darkness of fear. Not only is King Herod frightened by the message that a king has been born to the Jews, so are all the people of Jerusalem (v. 3). That is, even the people faithful to God's reign are fearful. A new day that brings astonishing news is feared by all. We easily fear change, even if it has come to benefit us. The moment something new happens to us, we lose a sense of control. It is no longer about us. In this instance, the change is about God's rule, God's ways, and God's love that shines brightly into a darkened world. Thanks be to God for the light that breaks into the dark corners of our world and of our lives. It is the only light and only hope that really matters. Is change easy or difficult for you? How do you ask God for help?

Pray: Dear Jesus, bless us to see in you the one who takes our fears and worries and turns them into joy and gladness. Amen.

SERVICE

Epiphany, also known as Three Kings Day, is a time when an age-old Christian tradition of blessing homes takes place around the world. It is a custom to inscribe 20x-C-M-B-20 with chalk on the door. C, M, and B between the year 2020 are the initials of the Magi but also stand for a Latin phrase meaning bless this house. The + symbolizes the cross. Our homes are places where daily spiritual practices take place (i.e., reading scripture, praying, or blessing others). Visit a person today who is homebound and pray with them. Conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus. We still need something to guide us to Jesus. Take a moment to stand with your legs spread slightly and your arms stretched out. Just as a star has five points, imagine your head, hands, and feet being the points of a star. When you think about the awesome role you have as a star, leading others to Jesus, imagine how you can do that. Talk about, draw a picture, or make a list of ways you can lead others to Jesus through your actions and words.

In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

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**Michigan Conference
UMC
Children's Ministry**

**"Faith & Family Playlist"
Rev. Kathy Pittenger**

The Wise and Foolish Builder

"The wise man (all people) built his house upon the rock..." may be a song that you sing or sang in Sunday School or Vacation Bible School or summer camp. It comes from a parable that Jesus told his followers about listening to and putting into practice what he has been teaching. We can also use this story to talk about making wise or foolish choices. Start by reading the Bible story or watching the video and going through the wondering questions. Then pick the activities your family would like to do, as many or few as you like. Close your family faith time with prayer - see your own or the one provided.

Bible Story

- Read the story of The Wise and Foolish Builder in your favorite Bible Story Book, in the [Deep Blue Bible Storybook](#), or in [Matthew 7:24-27](#).
- Wonder about the story together:
 - I wonder if you can remember a storm with lots of rain and wind.
 - I wonder what happens to a house when it is built on the sand when rains and winds come.
 - I wonder what happens to a house built on rock (or a strong foundation) when rains and wind come.
 - I wonder if you can think of a time when you listened to a wise friend or adult.
 - I wonder if you can think of a time when you did not listen to a wise friend or adult.
 - I wonder how you listen to Jesus' teachings.
- Prayer:
 - Dear God, thank you for Jesus' parables to teach us about making good choices. Help us remember what Jesus said about the builder of the house on the sand and rock. Help us to make good choices. In Jesus' Name. Amen.




[Deep Blue Kids' Videos about the Wise and Foolish Builders](#)

Activities

- [Printable Puzzles](#)
- [Building a Good Foundation Activity](#)
- [Activity Activity Bulletin](#)
- [Deep Blue Lesson for at Home](#)

Other activity ideas include:

- Make Sand Art
- Paint a rock with an encouraging message and put it somewhere so others can see it
- Do a house/tower building experiment: What kind of materials create a strong foundation? What kind of materials might make a foundation weak or unsteady? Build a house on a strong foundation and a weak foundation. What is the same? What is different?

Book

Most People by Michael Leannah



Building strong foundations in our communities means understanding that most people care about one another and also want to have a strong community. After you read/watch the book, discuss these talking points: How have you seen people being kind in your community? When people are not kind, how can you and your family respond? (You may want to tie this in with understanding race, racism and anti-racism. Learn more [here](#).)

Songs




<https://michiganumc.org/faith-family-playlists>

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Creation Playlist (season of Creation)

Creation

This playlist is from the first chapter of Genesis and contains one of the stories of Creation (the second part of the creation story is learning that God created the world and everything in it, and called it good! If you want to learn more about the book of Genesis visit the [Bible Project](#).)

Bible Story

- Read Genesis 1:1-2:3 in your Bible or the Creation story in your favorite Story Bible.
- Wonder about the story together:
 - I wonder what it would have been like to create the world from the beginning.
 - I wonder what you would have created differently.
 - I wonder what your favorite part of creation is.
 - I wonder how you take time to rest.
- Prayer:
 - Dear God, thank you for creation! Thank you for the light and dark, for the sun and moons, for the water and sky, for the big and small animals, and for all the people. Help us to take care of creation. Help us to remember to rest. (Insert family celebrations and requests here if desired.) Amen.





Activities

- Play charades or "Pictionary" as a family taking turns acting out or drawing different parts of creation.
- Take a walk with your family in your neighborhood, at a park, or local school and pick up trash. Be careful of sharp or dangerous items.
- Make a list of ways that your family can help care for creation. Choose 1 or 2 to do this week.
- Use materials from around your house to re-tell the story of Creation. You might use Legos, paper and crayons, play-doh or clay, action figures, etc. Take pictures of each "day."
- Write a poem or a story about creation.
- Create a "Word Cloud" - write down all the words you can think of that relate to Creation. Then write your words in a variety of sizes that look like a picture. Or use a "word cloud" generator like [www.wordart.com](#).
- Go on a creation scavenger hunt.

Books

[When God Made the World by Matthew Paul Turner](#)



[Let There Be Light by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nancy Tillman](#)



Music Videos




<https://michiganumc.org/faith-family-playlists>

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Example Resource

The screenshot shows the God on Tap website. The header includes the logo "GOD ON TAP" and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT, BLOG, LOCATIONS, CONNECT, BREWING FOR THE GREATER GOOD, and a search icon. The main content area features a "GOD ON TAP BLOG" title and a sub-header "DISCUSSING CREATIVITY AT GOD ON TAP TOMORROW NIGHT!". Below this is a photograph of a person in a blue shirt working with colorful paint. To the right of the photo is text inviting readers to a gathering on July 26th at 7:30pm at Forest & Main Brewing Company in Ambler, with the topic of creativity. Further text discusses the importance of boredom for creativity and mentions a podcast. On the right side of the page, there is a "GET NEW BLOG POSTS BY EMAIL" sign-up form with an "Email Address" input field and a "SUBSCRIBE" button. Below that is a "RECENT BLOG POSTS" section with two entries: "Discussing Creativity at God on Tap Tomorrow Night!" and "God on Tap Tomorrow Night: Mapping our Spiritual Landscapes", each with a "READ MORE" link.

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Example

Justice & Service Month-long Plan

1. Select a justice issue, social need, etc. as a focus.
2. Research the issue/need: curate learning resources and action projects (direct aid, advocacy, etc.).
3. Kick-off the month with a live stream presentation.
4. Engage adults in online learning experiences on the issue/need (video, activities, etc.). Add a small group option.
5. Engage in one or more action projects for all adults or in small groups (physical or online setting).
6. Bring everyone together (online) to share their experience.

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Example

<https://www.stcharlespdx.org/spiritual-growth-challenge.html>



Spiritual Growth Challenge

You are invited and challenged to grow in faith . . .



We have a host of opportunities for you for you to grow in faith in a self directed manner . . .

Step 1: Essential Elements. Reflect and think: If you could name four essential elements for faith growth, what would the four words be? Click through and follow the simple process. Takes only a couple of minutes.

Step 2: Chart Your Path. How do you intend to grow in faith? Explore these possibilities.

1. **Your Personal Journey** - We have curated excellent faith-learning resources around the essential themes of the Catholic Christian faith.
2. **Christian Practices** - We form ourselves in the practices of the Christian way of life by drawing upon the wisdom of the Bible and Christian tradition, and connecting the practices to the "signs of the times."
3. **Finding Life's Purpose** - There is no better time for each one of us to look deeper into ourselves to inspire and nurture our spiritual growth. And there is no better time to discover meaning and purpose in our daily lives.
4. **Racial Reconciliation** - If we desire to support people of color in our community, we must learn about racial justice and the need for racial reconciliation throughout society.
5. **Care for Creation** - Our care for one another and our care for the earth are intimately bound together. Climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community.

After each component, be sure to click **Claim Your Badge**, fill out the form and within 24 hours you will receive a digital badge acknowledging your achievement, and **\$10 will be donated** to St. Charles Faith Formation.

ST. CHARLES CHURCH | 5310 N.E. 42ND AVENUE, PORTLAND OR 97218 | 503-281-6461 | STCHAS@STCHARLESPDX.ORG

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Example



Personal Journey in Faith

Growth / Learning Plan

You are invited into personal faith growth and study. We have curated excellent faith-learning resources around the essential themes of the Catholic Christian faith. Choose a theme from the chart that appeals to you today. Click through on the link to access the free resource, and follow the simple "Assignment" steps. You'll be amazed at how much you learn!

After each component, be sure to click **Claim Your Badge**, fill out the form and within 24 hours you will receive a digital badge acknowledging your achievement, and \$10 will be donated to St. Charles Faith Formation.

| Theme | Resource - Assignment |
|------------------------------|--|
| Faith | Bible Project: Character of God Series 1. View Introductory Video (6 min) 2. Read the web page 3. View the Character of God Videos (4-5 min each) 4. Reflect/Journal: In your own words, how would you describe the character of God? 5. Claim your Badge |
| Prayer | Good Ground Press, Retreats 1. Choose one of the Adult Retreats 2. Complete each session of the retreat (4 to 7 sessions) 3. Reflect/Journal: What's your biggest take away from your retreat? 4. Claim your Badge |
| Bible | Bible Project: How to Read the Bible 1. View all four episodes of Intro to the Bible (5-6 min each) 2. Read the Book of Genesis (first book of the bible) 3. Read the Gospel of Mark (second Gospel account in the New Testament). 4. Reflect/Journal: What did you learn about the Bible that you didn't know before? How do you like reading the Bible? 5. Claim your Badge |
| Worship | Understanding the Sunday Lectionary Understanding the Liturgical Calendar 1. View the Sunday Lectionary video (13 min) 2. Take a look at the reading for the next upcoming Sunday (https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading) 3. View the Liturgical Calendar video (10 min) 4. Reflect/Journal: Does the Sunday Lectionary make sense to you? How about the Liturgical Calendar? Lingering questions? 5. Claim your Badge |
| Justice & Service | Ave Explores: Faith in Action 1. View the Introductory Video (4 min) 2. For each "week" of the retreat (there are four), click through on the items that interest you. You don't have to do everything, but select three or four items to view/listen/read. 3. Reflect/Journal: In what ways do you think you are called to put your faith into action? 4. Claim your Badge |

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Some virtual projects and Ideas

Alpha Online



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Yale Bible Study

YALE BIBLE STUDY GETTING STARTED ABOUT COURSES RESOURCES COMMUNITY DONATE

(Eckstein) and the...

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW</p> <p>Matthew has some of the most familiar stories of Jesus. It's making it a great study for beginners. It is also beautifully narrated which should appeal to those who hear...</p> <p>DETAILS</p> | <p>THE GOSPEL OF LUKE</p> <p>The Gospel of Luke is undoubtedly a masterfully written narrative filled with vivid descriptions and beautiful poetic prose. Contained within its chapters are some of the most theologically significant parables.</p> <p>DETAILS</p> | <p>THE GOSPEL OF MARK</p> <p>This study will delve into Mark's storytelling. The Markan Gospel depicts a Jesus of both good news and urgent challenge. The clear author of this book masterfully weaves together episodes...</p> <p>DETAILS</p> |
| <p>THE GOSPEL OF JOHN</p> <p>The Gospel According to John has long been a favorite of Christian readers or listeners. The Gospel's presentation of the life of Jesus is distinctive, the theological perspective is remarkable.</p> <p>DETAILS</p> | <p>ACTS OF THE APOSTLES</p> <p>Written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke, the Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of the story of Jesus' followers. Luke, traditionally identified as a physician...</p> <p>DETAILS</p> | <p>ROMANS</p> <p>Paul's letter to the Romans has been enormously influential in the development of Christian faith, Christian theological reflection, and Christian practice. This course seeks to examine why that would be...</p> <p>DETAILS</p> |

YALE BIBLE STUDY GETTING STARTED ABOUT COURSES RESOURCES

The Gospel of Matthew

Presenter DR. HAROLD W. ATTRIDGE Presenter DR. MICHAEL BETH DINKLER

Category: FEATURED COURSES

[ENROLL](#)

OVERVIEW CURRICULUM PRESENTERS

Introduction to the Course

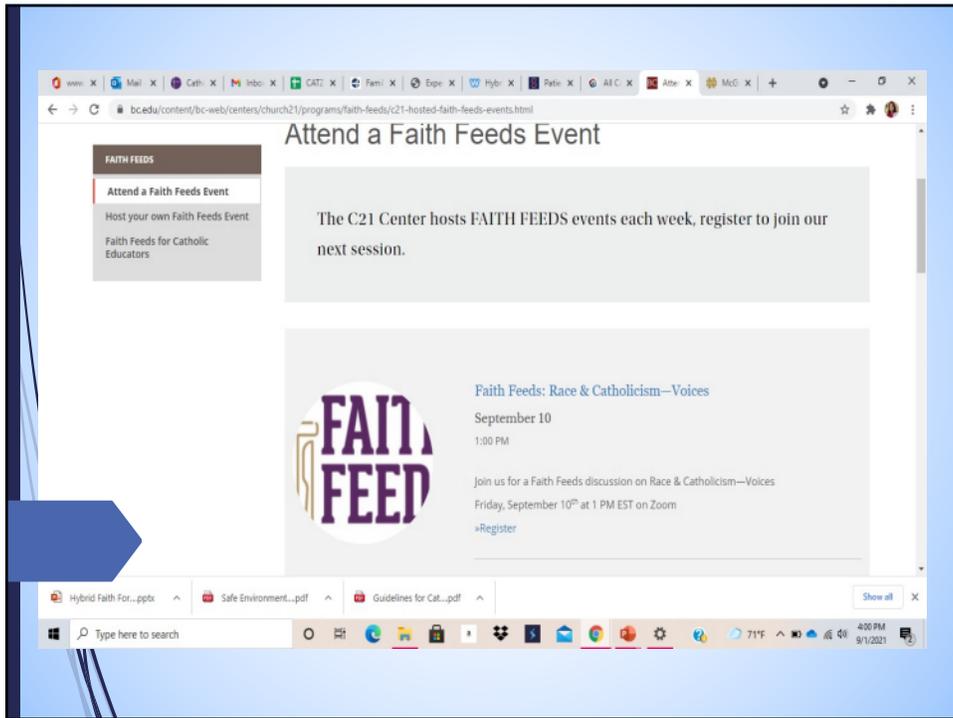
- [Introduction to the Course](#)
- [Introduction to the Course - Additional Resources](#)

Week 1: Ancestry and Birth

- [Ancestry and Birth - Video](#) **10:11**
- [Ancestry and Birth - Study Guide](#)
- [Ancestry and Birth - Discussion Questions](#)
- [Ancestry and Birth - Additional Resources](#)

Week 2: Sermon on the Mount

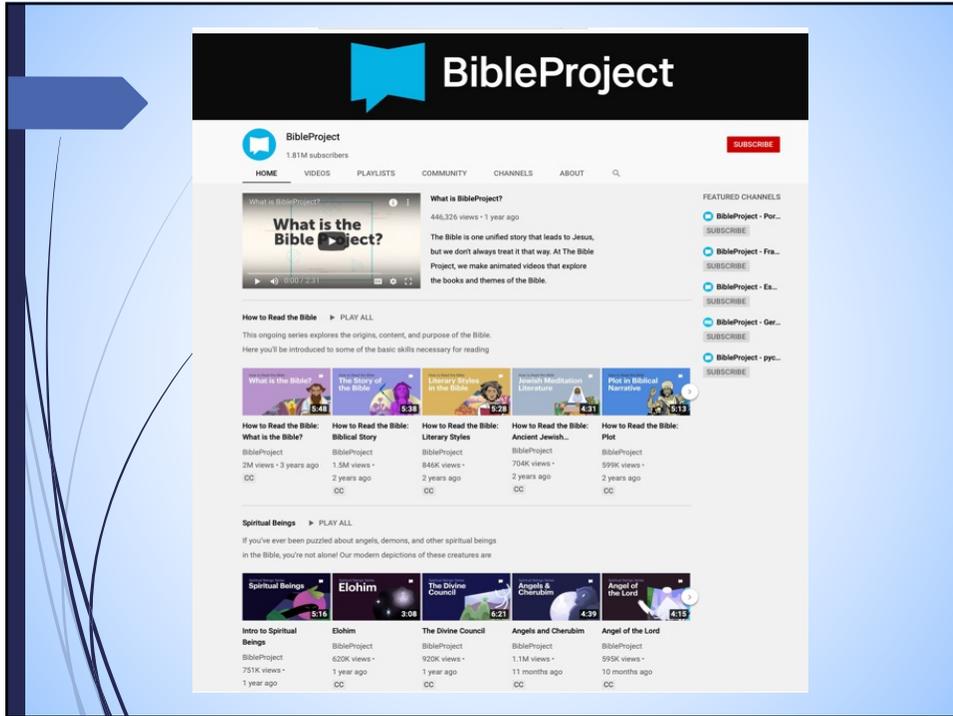
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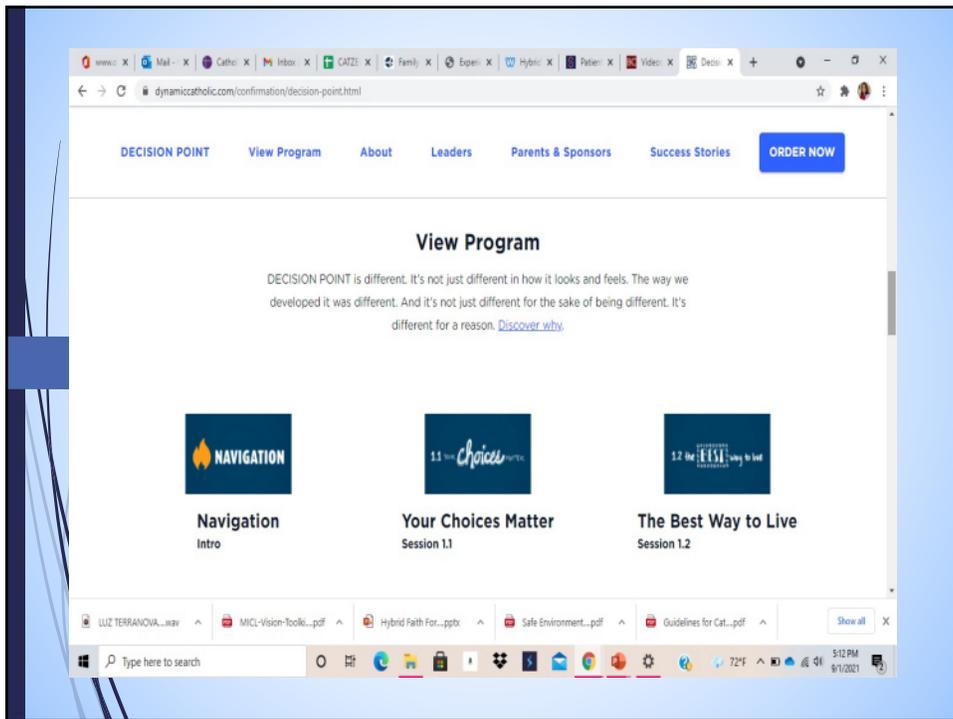
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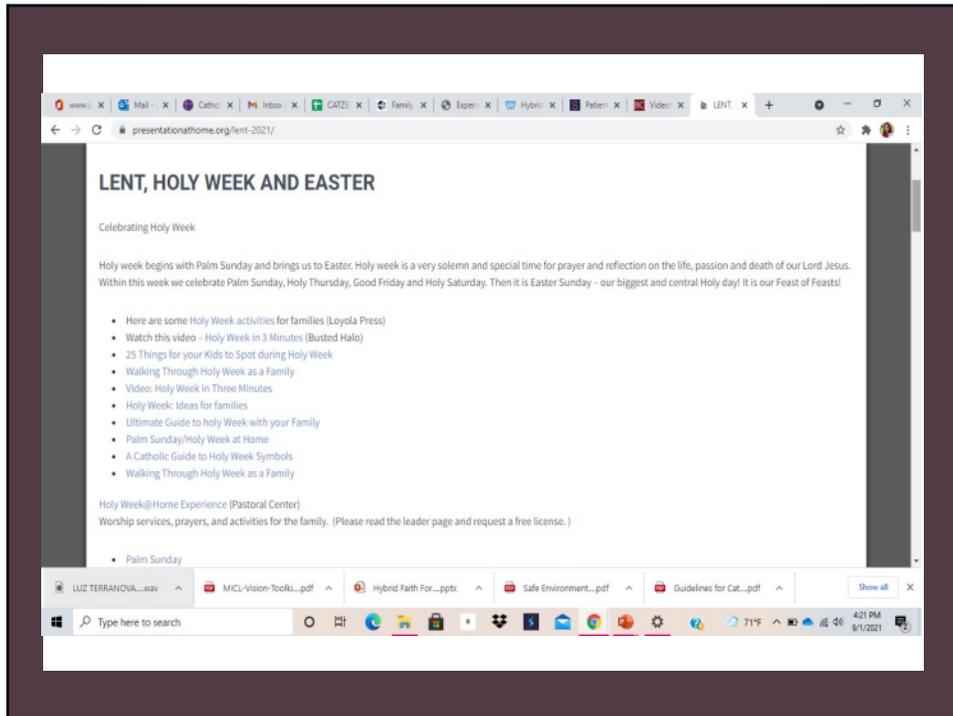
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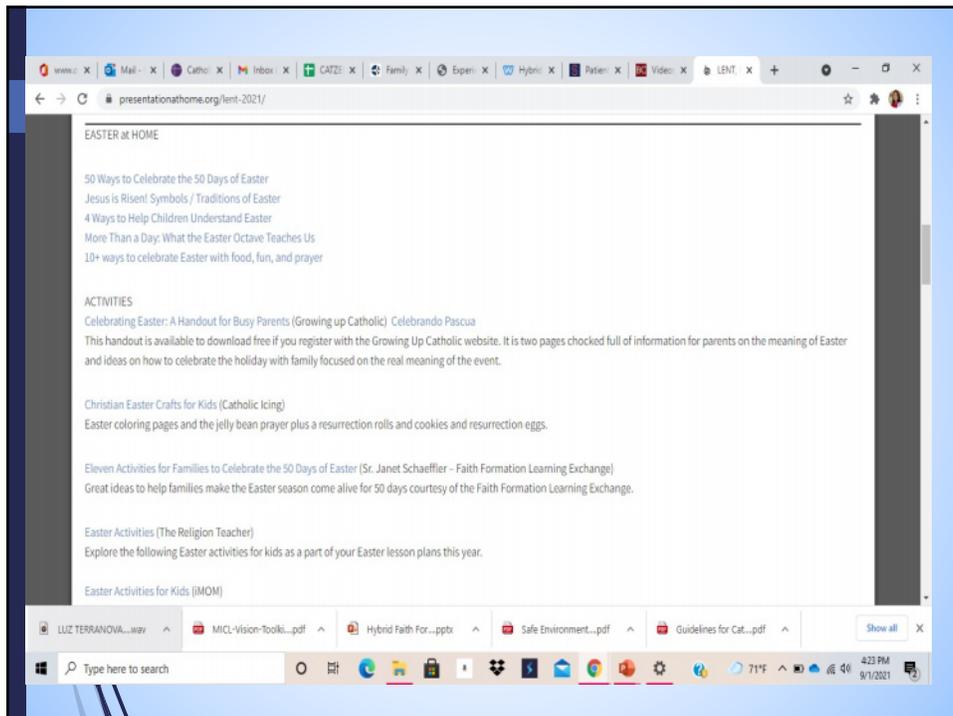
43



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Example

THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY at the slate project

We are an experiment in Christian community, recognizing that people gather **both online and face-to-face** in order to follow Jesus.

- 

#BreakingBread

Christian worship rooted in the ancient and the arts, with a home-cooked meal, unique community, and prayers.
Mondays, 6pm(ish)
 Cathedral of the Incarnation, 4 E. University Pkwy, Baltimore.
- 

#WakeUpWordUp

Recovering the bible as a story worth telling.
Tuesdays, 10am.
 Nancy by SNAC, 131 W. North Ave., Baltimore.
- 

ENGAGING IMAGES

We create unique image-based content on **Wednesday (#WednesdayWisdom)** and **Thursday (#thi)** that looks to engage with a 21st-century Christianity.
- 

ONLINE WORSHIP #SlateSpeak

A live-chat on Twitter, with a beautiful, progressive, radical bent, welcome to everyone. (Yes, you.)
Thursdays, 9pm ET.
 Use the digital bookmark #SlateSpeak on Twitter to follow.

5 AUDIO/VIDEO CONTENT

We release a monthly video/podcast (**first Saturdays**) that engages with different relevant topics in our world and our church, and provides resources for our partners in ministry to use.

JOIN US.
 We're caught up in the **real, radical, and raw Jesus movement.** And we're trying new things.
slateproject.org

@TheSlateProject | The Slate Project | slateprojectbmore



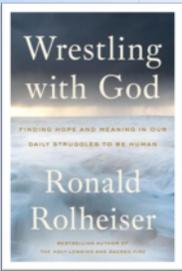
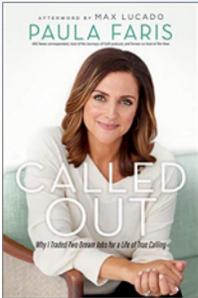
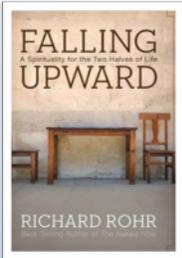
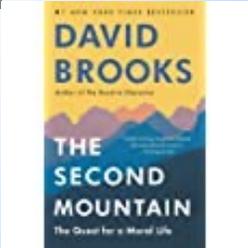
Connect with The Slate Project on-line and face-to-face:

- Mondays** What: [#BreakingBread](#) (Dinner Church)
 Where: 4 E. University Pkwy Bmore, MD 21218
 When: 6 PM EST
- Wednesday** What: [#SlateReads](#) (Live Tweet Chat- Book Discussion)
 Where: Twitter-- use the digital bookmark #SlateReads
 When: 8 PM EST
- Thursdays** What: [#SlateSpeak](#) (Live Tweet Chat- new topic each week)
 Where: Twitter-- use the digital bookmark #SlateSpeak
 When: 9 PM EST

Check out our **daily digital content** on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.

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Reading / Book Groups / Video Groups

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Where do you want to innovate?

Stop doing something

- Redesign something
- Sustain something
- Initiate something new

For Whom?

- * Age Group
- * Families
- * All Generations
- * Target Audience

With What?

- * New Approach or Program
- * New Methods & Media
 - * New Technology
- * New Space or Location

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Ideas for Hybrid Design reinvent or create

- Marriage preparation
- Baptism preparation for new parents
- Families with young children (0-5)
- Children's faith formation with an at-home component
- First communion preparation for parents and whole family
- Confirmation preparation
- All adult faith formation
- Outreach initiatives

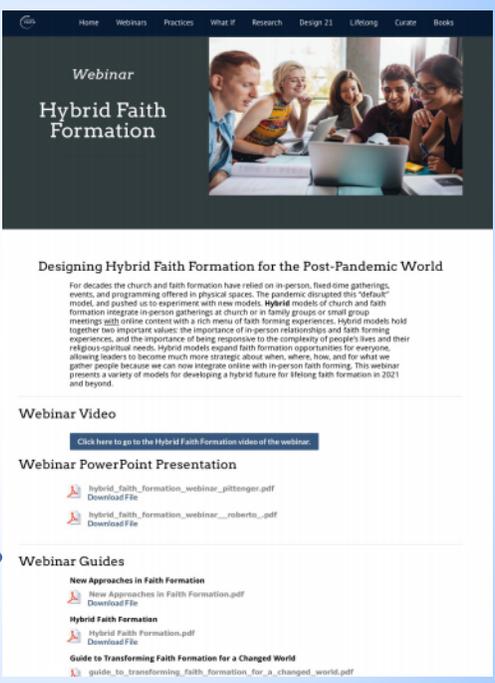
50

Resources & PowerPoint

www.LifelongFaith.com

Go to “Hybrid” under Webinar Menu





The screenshot shows a website page titled "Hybrid Faith Formation" under a "Webinar" menu. The page includes a video player, a download link for the webinar video, a section for "Webinar PowerPoint Presentation" with two PDF files for download, and a section for "Webinar Guides" with three PDF files for download.

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Prayer

Lord Jesus, Word made flesh, thank you for inviting me to proclaim you to others. Thank you for filling my life with your word. Help me to speak a language of faith that will help others to recognize you in their lives and deepen their relationship with you. May your Word echo within my heart and within the hearts of those I teach. Amen.

Prayer from *The Catechist's Toolbox* by Joe Paprocki.





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Thank you!



www.LifelongFaith.com

**Go to "Planning Clinic" under Webinar or
tools and article and the recording**

Catzel@churchofpresentation.org

www.churchofpresentation.org

www.presentationathome.org