Throughout Scripture there is a pervasive sense that all generations were typically present when faith communities gathered for worship, for celebration, for feasting, for praise, for encouragement, for reading of Scripture, in times of danger, and for support and service. . . . To experience authentic Christian community and reap the unique blessings of intergenerationality, the generations must be together regularly and often—infants to octogenarians.

(Allen and Ross, 84)
The best curriculum for forming children, youth, and anyone else in Christian faith is guided participation in a community of practice where people are vibrantly, passionately risking themselves together in lives of faith in a world crying out for the love of Christ.

(Joyce Mercer)

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

(Joyce Mercer)
Intergenerational Faith Formation

Utilize intergenerational events in the faith community
Connect the generations through all events and programs
Infuse multiple generations into age group programs
Create new intergenerational programs & experiences
(learning, service, community life)

Intergenerational Approaches

- **Utilizing** the intergenerational events and experiences of church life (community life events, worship and the lectionary, seasons of the year, service and mission projects, prayer and spiritual formation) as a primary “content” in faith formation.
- **Infusing** intergenerational experiences and relationships into existing programs and activities.
- **Connecting** the generations through new intergenerational programs and experiences that bring together all of the generations for learning, celebrating, praying, reading the Bible, serving and working for justice, and worshipping.
Utilizing Events

1 - Preparation:
knowledge & practices
for participating fully

2 - Guided Participation:
in the events of church life & the Christian Faith

3 - Reflection:
on the experience and living its meaning in daily life

Intergenerational & Age-Specific

Worship
1. Learn about worship and how to worship
2. Experience Sunday worship with the faith community
3. Live the Sunday worship experience at home and in daily life

Bible
1. Learn about the Bible and how to read it, interpret it, and apply it
2. Experience the Bible at Sunday worship and at home
3. Develop their own practice of Bible study and reading.
Intergenerational & Age-Specific

Christian Tradition
1. Learn about Jesus and the Christian tradition
2. Experience the life of Jesus and the tradition through participation in the lectionary and church year feasts and seasons
3. Live the Christian faith today at home and in daily life

Service & Justice
1. Learn about the justice issues of our day and the biblical and church teachings on justice, service, and care for creation
2. Experience acts of justice and service with the faith community—locally and globally
3. Engage in the practices of serving those in need, caring for creation, and working for justice

Connecting Generations
1. Incorporate intergenerational dialogues into programming
2. Develop mentoring relationships
3. Involve the community in praying for each generation,
4. Organize social and recreational activities that build intergenerational relationships
5. “Intergenerationalize” age-group programming
6. Integrate intergenerational programming into an age-group program plan and calendar
7. Offer service projects and mission trips for all ages
8. Offer simple, one-time intergenerational experiences: arts, music/concerts, drama, social events, service projects, sports, educational experiences
Infusing Intergenerationality

*Infusing* intergenerational experiences and relationships into existing programs and activities, such as bringing mature adults into children and youth programs for interviews, storytelling, and mentoring; and transforming age-group programs (vacation Bible school, service projects) into intergenerational experiences.

✦ Worship
✦ Service projects and mission trips
✦ Age group learning programs
✦ Social / community program
✦ Sacramental preparation

Creating Intergenerational Programs

1. Intergenerational Service
   • Intergenerational Mission Trips
   • Churchwide Service Day
   • Intergenerational Monthly Project
   • Intergenerational Service Nights
   • Intergenerational Service Projects

2. Intergenerational Learning
   • Weekly or Bi-Weekly
   • Monthly
   • Seasonal
   • Small Group & Large Group
Intergenerational Learning

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

- Intergenerational Learning
  1. In-Common All Ages Experiences
  2. Parallel Learning
  3. Contributive Occasions
  4. Interactive Sharing
- Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly Models
- Small Group & Large Group Models

Intergenerational Learning

Meal and Community Building
Part 1. Gathering and Prayer
Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience
Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience
  Option 1. Whole Group (together)
  Option 2. Age Group (parallel)
  Option 3. Activity Center
Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application
Part 5. Closing Prayer
Intergenerational Learning

Engaging all ages and generations together in informing and forming disciples of all ages in Christian identity.

- Intergenerational Learning
- Weekly, Bi-Weekly, and Monthly Models
- Small Group & Large Group Models

Content: Liturgy & Lectionary
St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Acton, MA

5. January: The Baptism of the Lord (Matthew 13-17)
6. February: You are the Salt of the Earth - 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Matthew 5: 13-16)
7. March: The Temptation of Jesus - First Sunday of Lent (Matthew 4: 1–11)
8. April: Palm Sunday (Matthew 26: 14-27)
Content:
Thematic
Holy Infant Catholic Parish, Durham, NC

Navigating Life with GPS – God’s Proven System

Rules of the Road – God’s Commandments

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<tr>
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Respect and Protect All Life

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Give Way with Mercy and Forgiveness

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<td>Thursday</td>
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Stay on the Straight and Narrow Path of Fidelity

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Navigating with Integrity and Honesty

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<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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Be a Good Steward of All God’s Gifts

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HI-life Gatherings...

On the 10th year of whole community catechesis known as a Thematic Year, our theme is Navigating Life with GPS – God’s Proven System. Christian moral life can be summed up as the recognition of the awesome gift of God’s loving presence in our lives and our continuing effort to respond to that love. During this year we will explore the guidelines that God has given to live lives of love and holiness, including the ten commandments and the beatitudes. We encourage participation of all ages to participate in our Thematic Gatherings – our intergenerational learning assemblies that are the foundation of our faith formation process. Our weekly Gatherings are a time of fellowship, faith formation, and fun.

Sharing a Simple Meal Together

A typical gathering is welcomed by guests in the Hospitality Room and seated at a table in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a meal with fellow parishioners of all ages. At each table there might be a single adult, a family of four, a retired person, or an empty nest couple. There will be a couple of questions on the table to focus our table talk.

Whole Group Opening Experience

Introduction of the topic to be experienced by all ages

After the meal, everyone moves to the church for an opening prayer and an activity to set the tone for the evening, such as a story or video segment. Each household receives a HI-life Home Kit and learns to use it throughout the evening.

Exploring the Topic through Age-Specific Learning Activities

Learning about the same topic according to one’s age or stage in life

Then the group divides into smaller groups for age-specific learning activities. A typical evening might have adults meeting in the church for a speaker and group discussion, young adults in Meeting Room 4, young people in Meeting Room 3, and families with young children (approximately ages 2-11) together in the Fellowship Hall. There are也 stakeholders for each group to teach and lead the learning activities of the evening and trained facilitators to assist the parents and children at each table.

Whole Group Sharing Experience

Closing of the Gathering for all ages

To conclude our evening, everyone gathers in the church to share what has been learned, to pray, and to plan for the next gathering at home in preparation for the church event or season which is the focus of the month.
Content: Christian Practices

1. Caring for the Body
2. Celebrating Life
3. Discernment
4. Dying Well
5. Eating Well
6. Forgiving
7. Hospitality
8. Keeping Sabbath
9. Managing Household Life
10. Participating in Community
11. Praying
12. Reading the Bible

Elements of LOGOS

In local churches, LOGOS teams build intergenerational relationships between young people and caring Christian adults of all ages through a four-part weekly format:

**ACTS 2:42 (NRSV)**

They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayers.

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

GenOn Ministries
www.genonministries.org
Intergenerational Learning

- A flexible, relaxed arrival time with drinks and snacks
- Creative exploration of a Bible story/theme through creative experiences for people of different learning styles and of all ages. Children and adults are not separated and are encouraged to explore the story/theme together
- A short but explicit time of worship with story, music and prayers that builds on the creative exploration.
- A generous welcome and hospitality is expressed through a delicious home-cooked, sit-down meal with others
Intergenerational Learning

Meal and Community Building
Part 1. Gathering and Prayer
Part 2. All Ages Learning Experience
Part 3. In-Depth Learning Experience
  Option 1. Whole Group (together)
  Option 2. Age Group (parallel)
  Option 3. Activity Center
Part 4. Sharing Learning Experiences and Home Application
Part 5. Closing Prayer

Whole Group Format

The Whole Group Format provides...

- Learning activities for everyone using small groups or table groups
- Appropriate learning activities for families with children, teens, young adults, and adults
- Lead facilitator or team guides the entire group through the learning program—giving
Age Group Format

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

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

Learning Center Format

The Learning Activity Center Format provides...

- Learning stations or centers with structured learning activities on a common theme
- Age-specific or intergenerational
- Facilitated by leaders
Example: Called to Pray

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

Example: Identity of Christ

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

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

**Activity Centers**

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

Example: Jesus Son of God

**Methods for Exploring Gospel Stories**

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

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

Application

1. How can you utilize the intergenerational events and experiences of church life as a primary “content” in faith formation?
2. How can you infuse intergenerational experiences and relationships into existing programs and activities?
3. How can you connect the generations through new intergenerational programs and experiences?