



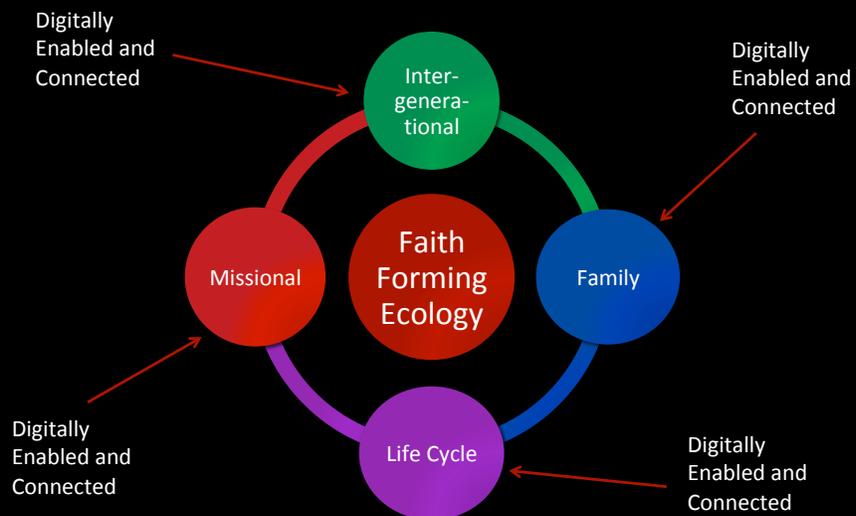
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SeasonsofAdultFaith.com
FamiliesattheCenter.com
WholeCommunityFaithFormation.weebly.com

Lifelong Faith Books



A Faith Forming Ecology



Key Concept: Adaptive Challenges



Life Span Diversity



The Seasons of Life

Seasons of Life

- Young Children
- Older Children
- Young Adolescents
- Older Adolescents
- Young Adults (20s-30s)
- Midlife Adults (40s-mid 50s)
- Mature Adults (mid 50s-75)
- Older Adults (75+)

Life Issues

1. Physical & Cognitive Changes
2. Developmental Tasks
3. Family Life Cycle
4. Faith Development
5. Spiritual-Religious Identities
6. Generational Characteristics

Five Generation Diversity

iGeneration (2000-

Millennials (1980-99)

Generation X
(1961-1979)

Baby Boomers
(1946-60)

Builders (before 1946)



Generations

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iGeneration (2000- Millennials (1980-99) Generation X (1961-1979) Baby Boomers (1946-60) Builders (before 1946) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Relationship to Institutions ▶ Relationship to Authority ▶ Family Relationships ▶ Work-Life Balance ▶ Communication Style ▶ Technology Usage ▶ Learning Style ▶ Spiritual Expression ▶ Worship Style
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Family Diversity

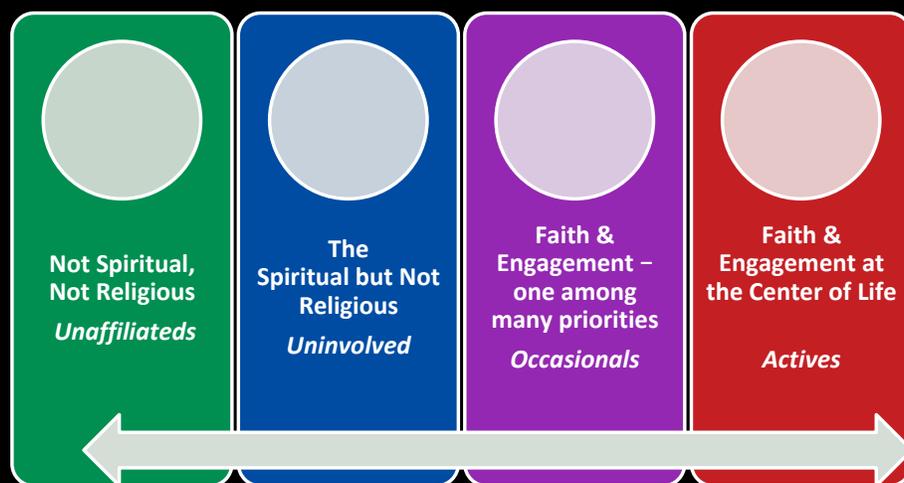


- Married Couple + No Children
- Married Couple + Children (biological or blended)
- Single Parent + Children
- Unmarried Couple + Children or No Children
- Same Sex Couple + Children or No Children
- Multigenerational Family (young adult, grandparents)
- Grandparents as Primary Caregivers

Families Today

- ✓ Diversity of family structures and a variety of living arrangements from 0-18 years old
- ✓ Pressures of work and finances; 70% of mothers work outside home
- ✓ Increasing complexity of family life, managing/ balancing time and commitments
- ✓ New generation of parents: Millennial parents & young Gen X
- ✓ Decline in religious practice at home, and decline in participation and affiliation in churches
- ✓ Decline in faith transmission and practice at home

A Diversity of Spiritual Religious Identities



Spiritual-Religious Diversity

Unaffiliated Make Up Growing Share Across Generations

% of each generation that identifies current religion as atheist, agnostic or nothing in particular

	2007	2014	Change
Silent generation (b. 1928-1945)	9	11	+2
Baby Boomers (b.1946-1964)	14	17	+3
Generation X (b. 1965-1980)	19	23	+4
Older Millennials (b. 1981-1989)	25	34	+9
Younger Millennials (b. 1990-1996)	n/a	36	n/a

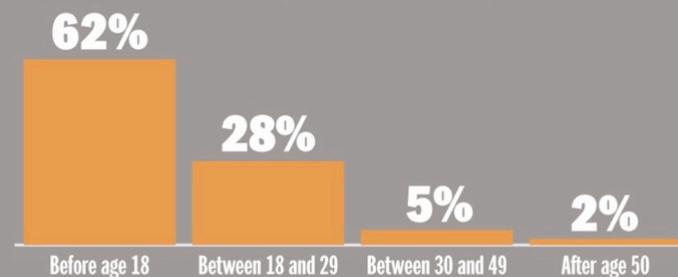
2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014. All changes are statistically significant.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Spiritual-Religious Diversity

Many 'nones' lost faith before they finished high school

Percentage of religiously unaffiliated Americans raised in a faith group who said they abandoned religious practice at the following time



SOURCE: Public Religion Research Institute

DESERET NEWS GRAPHIC

Decline in Religious Socialization & Practice



Digital Transformation



Technological Revolution: The Print Era (1500s -)



Technological Revolution: The Multimedia Era (1960s -)



Technological Revolution: The Digital Era (2000s -)



Technological Revolution: The Digital Era (2000s -)





Digital Culture

- ✦ Digital culture is transforming every aspect of life.
- ✦ People have the technology and know how to use it.
- ✦ People have time in their busy lives to connect, participate, and interact in online experiences and communities.
- ✦ People are already engaged in online learning and online spiritual experiences.
- ✦ People have access to an abundance of content – in all types of media formats – on demand, just in time, available 24x7, and often free!

The Adaptive Challenges of 21st Century Faith Formation

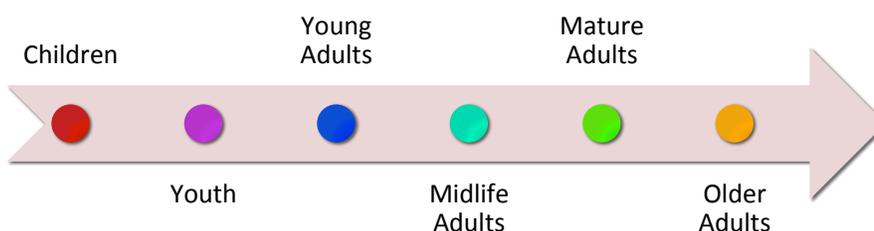
1. Ten decades of the life cycle
2. Five unique generational identities
3. Diverse family forms and styles
4. Diverse spiritual-religious identities of people
5. Decline in religious transmission and practice at home and decline in participation in church life and programs
6. Digital culture: new technologies and media create transformation in every aspect of life

Key Concept: Life Cycle - Maturing in Faith

Addressing the unique life tasks, needs, interests, and spiritual journeys of people at each stage of life.



Focus on Maturing in Faith: *Toward What Ends Are We Working*



Maturing in Faith

Christian faith formation is a lifelong journey with Christ, in Christ, and to Christ.

Lifelong Christian faith formation is lifelong growth in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Christ and is informed by scripture, tradition and reason.

(The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation)

Maturing in Faith

Every person is well-equipped to be growing in faith, be theologically conversant, and be active in the global mission of the church.

Faith Formation can then be understood and defined as *“an engaged process of learning and practice integrated throughout all aspects of congregational and daily life.”*

(United Church of Christ, “Foundations, Findings, and Futures,” 2012)

Maturing in Faith

The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ. Starting with the “initial” conversion of a person to the Lord, moved by the Holy Spirit through the primary proclamation of the Gospel, catechesis seeks to solidify and mature this first adherence. It proposes to help those who have just converted “to know better this Jesus to whom he has entrusted himself: to know his ‘mystery’, the kingdom of God proclaimed by him, the requirements and comments contained in his Gospel message, and the paths that he has laid down for anyone who wishes to follow him.”

(Roman Catholic, *General Directory for Catechesis*, 80)

Maturing in Faith: Holistic

- ✦ ***A way of the head (inform)*** demands a discipleship of faith seeking understanding and belief with personal conviction, sustained by study, reflecting, discerning and deciding, all toward spiritual wisdom for life.
- ✦ ***A way of the heart (form)*** demands a discipleship of right relationships and right desires, community building, hospitality and inclusion, trust in God's love, and prayer and worship.
- ✦ ***A way of the hands (transform)*** demands a discipleship of love, justice, peace-making, simplicity, integrity, healing, and repentance.

(Thomas Groome)

Maturing in Faith: Holistic

(Roman Catholic, *National Directory for Catechesis*)

Christ's method of formation was accomplished by diverse yet interrelated tasks. His example is the most fruitful inspiration for effective catechesis today because it is integral to formation in the Christian faith. Faith must be known celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer. So catechesis comprises six fundamental tasks, each of which is related to an aspect of faith in Christ.

1. **Promote Knowledge of the Faith** – Teach the “basics” of the faith as revealed in the signs of creation, Sacred Scripture, Catholic tradition and human experience.
2. **Liturgical Education** – Teach about the form and meaning of the liturgy and the sacraments and help individuals prepare their minds and hearts to enter into these mysteries of our faith.

Maturing in Faith: Holistic

(Roman Catholic, *National Directory for Catechesis*)

3. **Moral Formation** – Teach the moral teachings of the Church which are the fulfillment of the Commandments.
4. **Teaching to Pray** – Teach that a “climate of prayer” and participation in prayer invites individuals into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
5. **Education for Community Life** – Teach that the human person needs to live in society. Society is not optional, but a requirement of human nature.
6. **Missionary Initiative** – Teach that all Christian service is an expression of love and is performed by Christians for the purpose of building up the Kingdom of God on earth.

Focus on Maturing in Faith

Search Institute, 1988

1. Trusting and believing
2. Seeking spiritual growth
3. Integrating faith and life
4. Holding life-affirming values
5. Experiencing the fruits of faith
6. Nurturing faith in community
7. Advocating for social change
8. Acting and serving

Spirit & Culture of YM, 2005

1. Seeking Spiritual Growth
2. Possessing a Vital Faith
3. Practicing Faith in Community
4. Making the Christian Faith a Way of Life
5. Living a Life of Service
6. Possessing a Positive Spirit
7. Exercising Moral Responsibility

Focus on Maturing in Faith

1. **Sustaining a personal relationship with Jesus Christ** supported through regular prayer, faith sharing and Bible reading.
2. **Making the Christian faith a way of life** by integrating their beliefs into the conversation, decisions, and actions of daily life.
3. **Possessing a vital faith** and being aware of God present and active in their own life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

Focus on Maturing in Faith

4. **Seeking spiritual growth** by actively pursuing questions of faith, learning what it means to believe in God, and what it's like to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.
5. **Living a life of service** by caring for others, reaching out those in need, and addressing injustice in the world.
6. **Sharing the Good News** through words and actions, through Christian stewardship and working for peace, justice and human dignity.

Focus on Maturing in Faith

7. **Participating** fully, consciously, actively and regularly in the ritual and **worship life** of the faith community.
8. **Articulating the fundamental teachings** of the Christian faith and demonstrating a commitment to learning and growing in this faith.
9. **Exercising moral responsibility** by applying Christian ethics, virtues, principles, values, and social teaching to moral decision-making, life situations, and in interactions with the larger culture.

Focus on Maturing in Faith

10. **Practicing faith in Jesus Christ**, privately and publicly, through participation in the congregation's worship, ministries, and leadership.
11. **Discerning and using their gifts** to actively belong to and participate in the life and mission of the Christian community.
12. **Exploring God's call to vocation** through prayer, reflection, and discernment.
13. **Possessing a positive spirit** with loving and hopeful attitudes toward others and life, convinced that they can make the world a better place.

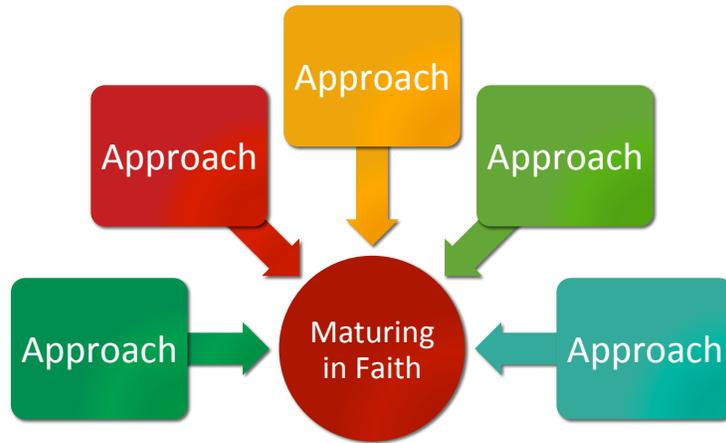
Maturing in Faith

We need to focus faith formation on the essential characteristics of lifelong growth in Christian faith and discipleship. These characteristics would incorporate knowing and believing, relating and belonging, practicing and living. With a lifelong vision of maturing faith we could address each characteristic in developmentally-appropriate ways at each stage of life.

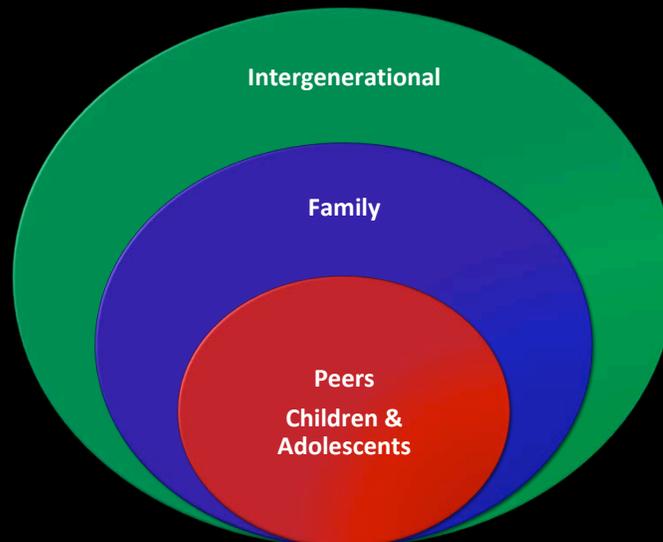
Maturing in Faith

For example: if *“sustaining a personal relationship with Jesus Christ supported through regular prayer, faith sharing and Bible reading”* was one of these faith maturing characteristics, the task of faith formation would be to ask how we can accomplish this with children, youth, young adults, midlife adults, mature adults, and older adults. In this approach we would build our “curriculum” around the people and the faith maturing characteristics.

Multiple Ways to Foster Faith Maturing



Key Concept: Faith Forming Environments



Forming Faith: Intergenerational



Utilize intergenerational events

Connect the generations

Infuse intergenerational into existing programs

Create intergenerational new programs & experiences
(*learning, service, community life*)

Intergenerational Learning Process



Intergenerational Faith Formation

Example: If we are creating a plan for children's faith formation, we need to consider how we will:

1. engage children in faith community experiences with all generations (including worship)
2. equip parents to share faith at home and build families of faith practice.
3. build relationships with and engage children and parents who are not involved in the faith community (e.g., baptized but not engaged).

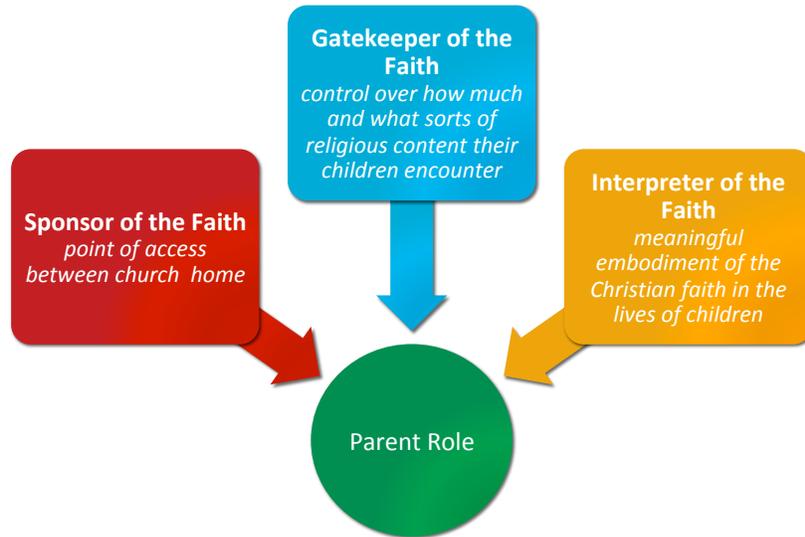
Then we can identify the unique age-group experiences we need to provide children.

Forming Faith: Family

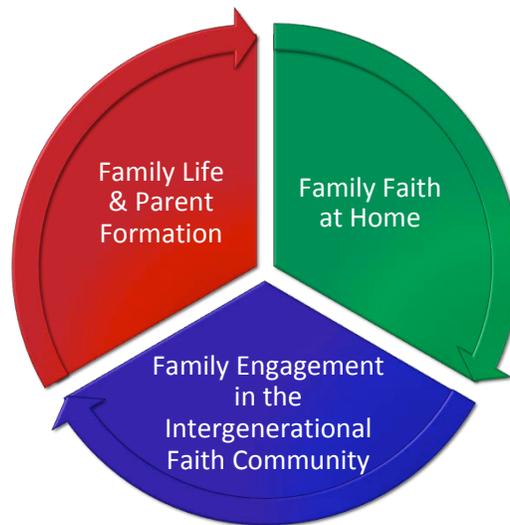


- ✦ Primary Influence on transmission of religious faith and practice: Parents & Family
- ✦ Day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities
- ✦ Secondary Influence: The Congregation and Significant Adults

Parental Influence



Family Faith Formation

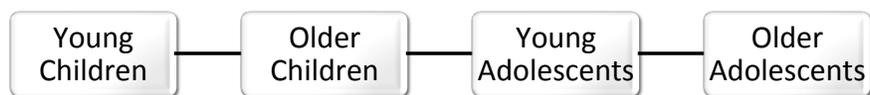


Family Faith Formation



1. God in Everyday Life
2. Faith Practices at Home
3. Milestones
4. Seasonal Events
5. Encountering God in the Bible
6. Intergenerational Connections
7. Strong Family Life
8. Parents & Grandparents as Faith Formers

Family Faith Formation Plan



Family Faith @ Home

- ✓ God in Everyday Life
- ✓ Faith Practices
- ✓ Milestones

Intergenerational Faith Community

- ✓ Seasonal Events
- ✓ Bible through the Year
- ✓ Intergenerational Connections & Experiences

Family Life & Parent/Grandparent Formation

- ✓ Strong Family Life
- ✓ Parents & Grandparents as Faith Formers

The Seasons of Life

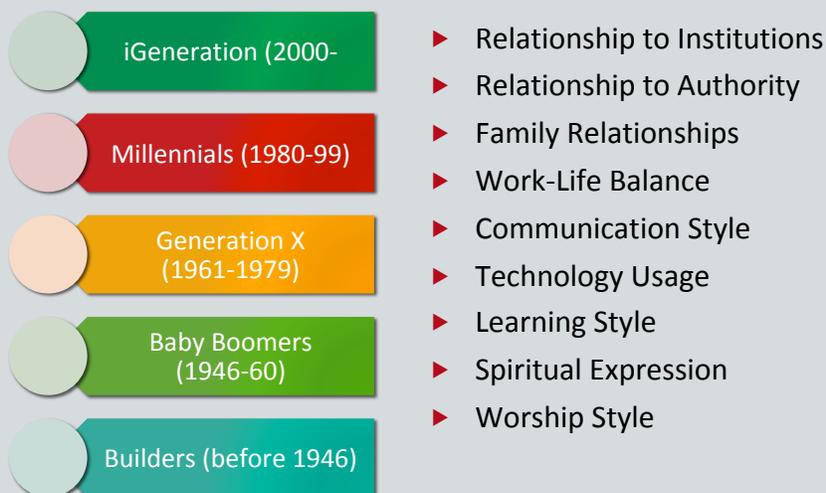
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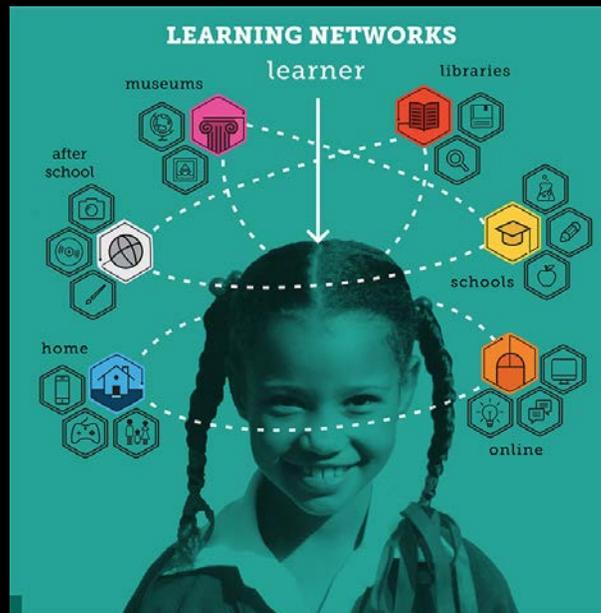
Life Issues

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6. Generational Characteristics

Generations



Key Concept: 21st Century Learning



21st Century Learning Characteristics

- ✓ Personalized
- ✓ Individualized
- ✓ Immersive learning environments
- ✓ Interactive
- ✓ Engaged
- ✓ Participatory
- ✓ Experiential
- ✓ Visual and multimedia
- ✓ Multi-Sensory
- ✓ Abundant content, on demand
- ✓ Episodic experiences
- ✓ Micro-learning
- ✓ Practice-Performance-Feedback
- ✓ Seamless Learning across multiple platforms
- ✓ Production-centered

Transforming Our Approach

1. Providing an **abundance of content & experiences** developed around the needs and lives of adults available on demand, 24x7
2. Using **multiple environments**: independent, mentored, at home/daily life, small group, large group, church-wide, and in the world
3. Building a **digital platform** that integrates all faith formation content and experiences seamlessly
4. Using **digitally-connected** strategies to enhance and expand all faith formation programming
5. Designing **episodic** engagements and **micro-learning** experiences
6. Creating **personalized pathways** for adult faith formation

Virtual Learning Academy



VLACS provides full time and part time online virtual learning opportunities for both Middle & High School students. Our new online Adult Education program will be available in 2016.

Choose Your Path



Middle School & High School

VLACS is an online virtual public middle and high school offering students the opportunity to learn at their own pace, full or part time.



Adult Education

Learn something for fun, develop new tech skills, learn a second language, and more at VLACS Adult Ed. Now accepting enrollments!

Summit Schools

Summit's PERSONALIZED SCHOOLS

A personalized school is designed to meet the needs of **each & every individual student.**

At Summit, we focus on four key elements of college and career readiness, and empower students to drive their learning and own their success.

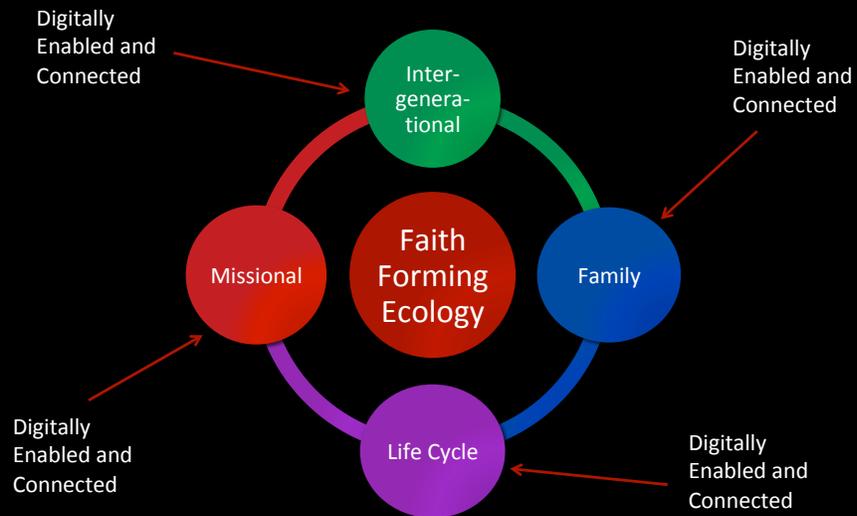


Personalizing Learning

Personalized learning is tailoring learning for each student's strengths, needs and interests—including enabling student voice and choice in what, how, when and where they learn—to provide flexibility and supports to ensure mastery of the highest standards possible.



A Faith Forming Ecology



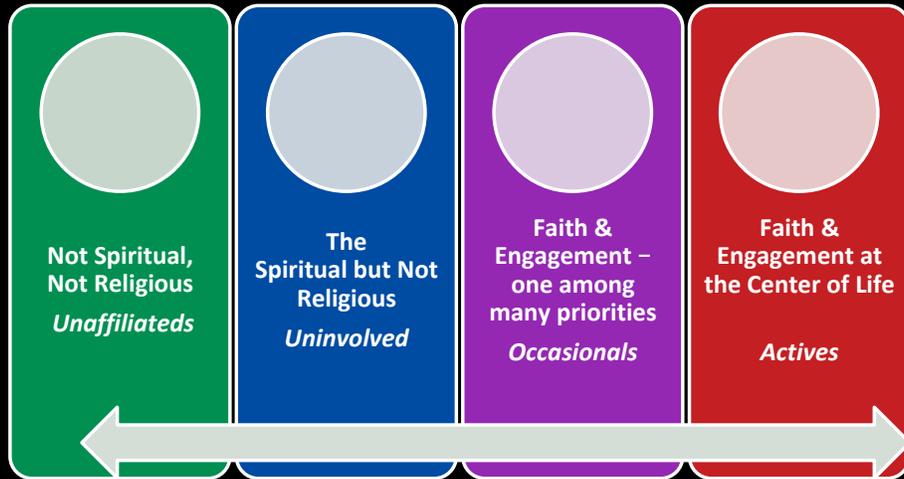
Key Concept: Personalized Faith Pathways



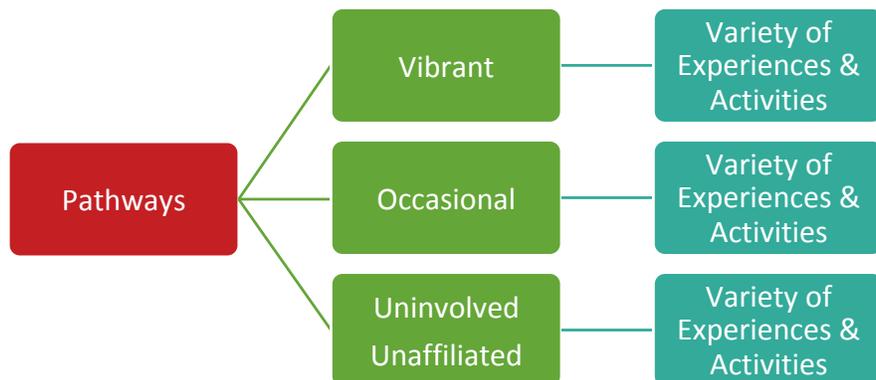
Personalizing Faith Formation

- ✦ We need to tailor faith formation to the individual journeys of children, youth, young adults, adults, and families in order to address their increasing spiritual and religious diversity and life stage needs.
- ✦ One of the latest educational innovations is personalized learning, i.e., tailoring the educational environment—the what, when, how and where people learn—to address the individual needs and interests of each person.
- ✦ To personalize faith formation we need to create “faith growth pathways” that use the faith maturing characteristics and, with the help of a mentor or small group, guide people in discerning their faith growth needs.

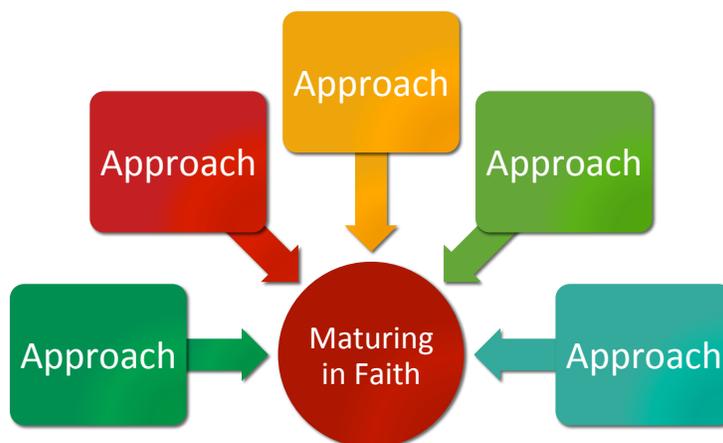
A Diversity of Spiritual Religious Identities



Personalized Pathways of Faith Growth



Multiple Ways to Foster Faith Maturing



Personalizing Faith Formation

- ✦ For example, if we took the characteristic *“seeking spiritual growth by actively pursuing questions of faith, learning what it means to believe in God, and what it’s like to be a disciple of Jesus Christ”* we could provide a tool that helps them discover their faith growth needs using a continuum from “exploring” to “getting started” to “making progress” to “going deeper” with short illustrations for each one.
- ✦ In this approach we would then develop a personalized faith growth plan—or what educators are now calling “playlists”—of content (print, audio, video, online) and direct experiences to address their needs.

Pathways Discernment

Through our baptism, we are called to join Christ in the “River of Life”, a life-long journey of discipleship. The following journey markers will help you identify where you are on this journey and to select programs and experiences that move you along the river. Whether you are “checking it out” or “leading others”, we want to accompany you on this journey!

1. **Check it Out (Come and See):** You are standing at the shore. You are looking for a place to belong and have questions about what is going on in the water. You are invited to join in...
2. **Step in the Water (Belonging):** You have stepped into the water. You are developing relationships and enjoying life as part of the church community. Find a place to belong...
3. **Get in the Boat (Exploring):** You are invited into the raft with others. You are becoming equipped with tools for the journey. You are excited to learn and discover more about your faith and are exploring a deeper relationship with Christ. Explore your faith...
4. **Navigate the Waters (Owning):** You are rowing hard, investing in your own spiritual growth. Your eyes are on the water ahead. You are a committed disciple of Christ, have a personal relationship with God and are an active member in the life of the church community. Your faith informs your decisions, actions and attitudes. Grow by...
5. **Lead Others (Living):** You have become an experienced guide. You’re inviting, equipping, and leading others on the journey. You continue to explore new waters in your own faith. Live your faith by...

Connecting with God		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Personal Spiritual Practices		I am learning about daily devotions and praying to find those that I want to practice.	I am practicing some spiritual devotions occasionally, including reading from the Bible.	I am using spiritual devotions regularly.	I am revising my spiritual practices.
	I read the Bible from time to time.	I am learning about STER (Scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason).	I also use other resources to understand the Bible at times.	I can share with others how I connect with God through spiritual practices.	I use STER to make decisions.
In Community		I attend worship at least once a month.	I attend worship on Sunday mornings at least twice a month.	I participate in worship every week unless sick or out of town.	I provide worship leadership and/or other service on Sundays.
	I say the Lord's Prayer during worship, grace before meals and prayers in the morning and/or at bedtime.	I participate in Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities).	I share Biblical and/or Christian stories with my family/friends.	I help organize Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities).	
Connecting with Others		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Individually		I aim to accept others, including those whose color, status, etc. are different from mine.	I go out of my way to be hospitable to members and guests in our church.	I listen and try to help others with their spiritual questions, joys, and concerns.	I invite others to worship and church events.
				I share my faith through personal testimony/story.	I share my faith with others through invitation and witness.
In Community		I attend seasonal events or special events.	I participate in a Central Connect Group for fellowship or faith formation.	I provide leadership for special events.	I am a leader in a Central Connect Group.
	I am learning about ministry opportunities.	I attend or serve at events.	I am open to being trained in church leadership.	I am open to training others for leadership in church administration, education, etc.	

Changing Our World with Christ's Love		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Generosity of Time, Talents, and/or Financial Gifts (TTFG)		I like to hear how my church meets the needs in the community.	I like to hear stories from others about how they have been changed by either giving or receiving.	I contribute with some Sunday offerings, at Christmas and Easter.	I like to hear how my church meets the needs in the community.
		I can share a story about my TTFG.	I can share a story about my TTFG.	I share my TTFG regularly.	I make an annual commitment and give in proportion to my income at a tithe (10%) and beyond.
In Community (Evangelism, Mission Trips, Service Projects, Social Action)		I learn from the church about caring for others in the community.	I help in the community in the fields of arts, academics, athletics, politics, charity, etc.	I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith in my work world.	I participate in ongoing service beyond the walls of the church.
		I participate in community service through church ministries occasionally.	I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and political issues.	I assist the church to advocate for peace and justice for all.	I recruit and equip leaders for ministries and missions.

Faith Growth Pathway

Planting → Nurturing → Shaping → Sharing → Planting

Central United Methodist Church
Waterford, MI

For more information, please contact:

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spiritual assessment

knowing God

1. Understand the essential beliefs of the Christian faith, and feel confident that I could explain them to a non-religious friend. 0 1 2 3 4 5
2. Have a good knowledge of the Bible, including its major events and themes, and I know how to read it for maximum understanding. 0 1 2 3 4 5
3. If someone were to ask me, "What do United Methodists believe?" I feel confident in my ability to answer them. 0 1 2 3 4 5
4. Understand basic Christian ethics, and I know how to draw upon my faith to come to conclusions about important moral and ethical issues. 0 1 2 3 4 5
5. I have a good understanding of God's will for human beings, and I know how to discern his will for my life in particular. 0 1 2 3 4 5

loving God

1. Know God has the power to transform lives and I'm open and responsive to whatever that may lead in my life. 0 1 2 3 4 5
2. I lay aside my own desires and sense of importance and submit to God's will for my life. 0 1 2 3 4 5
3. As a means of growing in Christ, I prayerfully practice various spiritual disciplines in my life. 0 1 2 3 4 5
4. I am experiencing "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. 0 1 2 3 4 5
5. I have a group of friends who grow in faith together and challenge each other to grow deeper in Christ. 0 1 2 3 4 5

loving God

1. I invest time in building my relationships with God and with others. 0 1 2 3 4 5
2. I know my God-given spiritual gifts, and am actively serving Christ by using those gifts. 0 1 2 3 4 5
3. I give back to Christ by going to the church and to others in proportion to my income, with at least 10% as my goal. 0 1 2 3 4 5
4. I spend time serving in God's world by helping meet critical needs and showing what it means to follow Jesus Christ. 0 1 2 3 4 5
5. I am actively nurturing the spiritual lives of others, sharing my faith story, offering spiritual encouragement and leading others to Christ. 0 1 2 3 4 5

Place your self-assessment number for each question below and add across, giving you an overall total.

Knowing: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Total Head _____

Loving: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Total Heart _____

Serving: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Total Hands _____

■ No one can concentrate on too many things at once. Look first at the individual questions, and then turn to the inside of this folder to consider next steps. Seek to find one or more areas in which you can grow in your relationship with God. Use the following scale as a general guide to the three levels:
0-2 Level 1 3-4 Level 2 5 Level 3

Knowing God

We can never fully understand God (if we could, we wouldn't have much of a God!). But the mysterious and questions are not obstacles to growth—they are an invitation to continually journey deeper in our understanding of God and the Kingdom to which he invites us. As we increase our understanding of the God we worship and serve, which is what the word "theology" means, we increase our capacity to live the life God designed us to live. Calendar items and volunteer opportunities marked with the knowing designation will lead you to a deeper understanding of the mysteries of the Kingdom.

Loving God

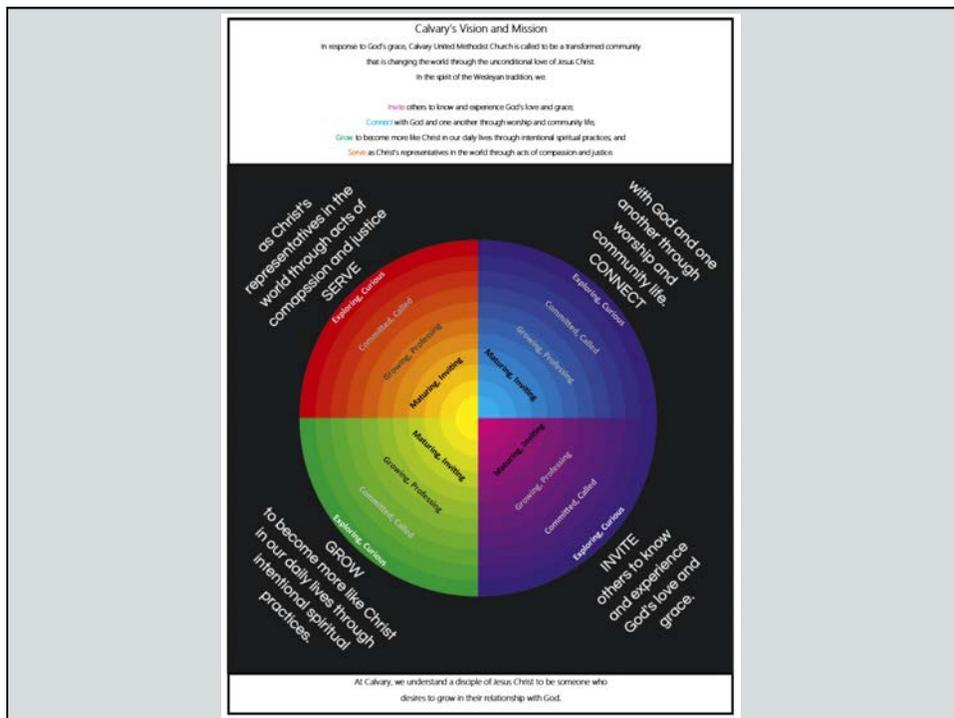
What we think and what we do are expressions of who we are. Trying hard to change ourselves is a losing proposition—but when we're traveling with God and letting God work in our lives, we find that transformation becomes a beautiful reality! When you see a calendar item or volunteer opportunity marked with the loving designation, it means that participation will draw you into a deeper level of love for God and neighbor.

Serving God

The Christian life is about more than correct thoughts and a loving attitude; it's about living our calling to be salt and light in the world. This means doing the work of the Kingdom. Calendar items and volunteer opportunities marked with the serving designation will help you get your hands dirty for the Kingdom. These include mission opportunities, volunteering and much more.

Take the next step today.
Visit www.coc.org/nextsteps or the Connection Point in the Narthex to view a detailed listing of classes and service opportunities and to register.

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection



Key Concept: Playlists for Learning



Learning Playlists

- ✦ A learning playlist is a curated group of digital and local learning experiences and resources (e.g. videos, websites, books, games, articles, etc.).
- ✦ 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 ways to learning: peer settings, family settings, intergenerational settings, community/world settings, and online settings.
- ✦ Playlists create a rich network of experiences for learners.

Faith Formation Playlists

Variety of Environments: Self-directed, mentored, at home, in small groups, in large groups, church-wide, in the community, and in the world.

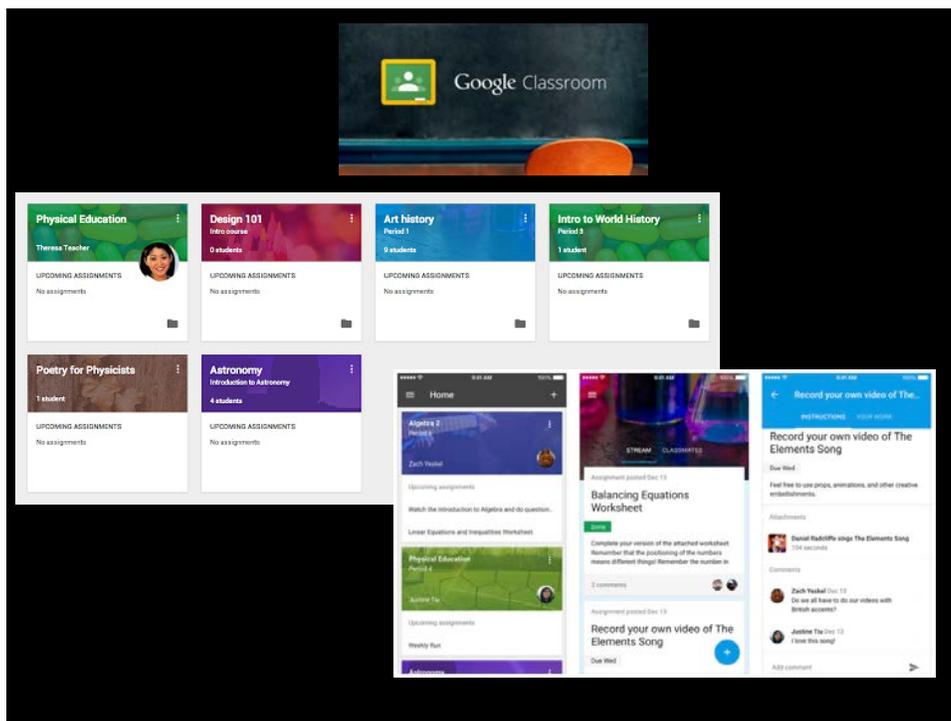
Variety of Ways to Learn



What is Edmodo?

Edmodo is a classroom website that is completely controlled by the teacher...

The screenshot shows the Edmodo website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Edmodo logo, a search bar, and links for 'Calendar', 'Grades', 'Library', 'Home', 'Profile', and 'Account'. Below the navigation bar, the user profile for 'Mrs. Nero' is displayed. The profile includes a profile picture of a Christmas tree, a 'By Me' section with a 'Post' form, and a notification for '1 New Direct Post'. A post titled 'Me to SPA 9 2012, SPA 9 2012 (Parents)' is visible, with a green heart graphic that says '...and it looks like Facebook!'. The right sidebar contains sections for 'Send Invitations', 'Suggestions', and 'Professional Development'.



Playlists



Playlists of Content & Experiences

Learn

Want to be Happy? Be Grateful

The one thing all humans have in common is that each of us wants to be happy. Ask Brother David Steindl-Christ, a monk and pioneer in faith. And happiness, he suggests, is born from gratitude. He inspires us to envision places, looking where you're going, and above all, being grateful. Go to [195](#) to learn more and read the transcript.

For a podcast of Fr. David's interview with Krista Tippett about Gratefulness, go to: [Go Living with Krista Tippett](#).



Gratitude: Living Life as Gift

In Curtis Akersport of the Society of St. John the Evangelist describes his of gratitude and how to practice gratitude. Go to the [193](#) website to [Live](#)



1. Learn
2. Pray
3. Read, Listen, Watch
4. Live

Pray

Gratitude Prayer for the Month

Gratitude took on the form of my day. I sometimes forget to stop to thank you for all that is good in my life. My thoughts are often and my heart is filled with gratitude for the gift of being, for the ability to love and be loved, for the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation, for time and water, for a mind that thinks and a body that feels. I thank you, too, for those things in my life that are less than I would hope them to be. Things that seem challenging, unfair, or difficult. When my feet both stretch and wring and push of their form in the same space, I tell myself that you are as near to me as my next breath and that in the midst of vulnerability, I am growing and learning. In the silence of my mind, I thank you most of all for your unconditional and eternal love. Amen.

Psalms on Gratitude

Read and reflect on the Psalms each week. (Just click on the title for the Psalm.)

Week 1 - Psalm 65 and Psalm 103
Week 2 - Psalm 103
Week 3 - Psalm 104
Week 4 - Psalm 107

Read, Listen, & Watch

Articles

- Read "The Words That Will Change Your Life" by Eric Denton to learn how gratitude begins humility which begins faith growth.

Book

A GOOD DAY

This inspiring book tells gratitude for the blessing of life and the everyday wonder and beauty of nature. It was inspired by the short film Gratitude, a small video sensation by acclaimed filmmaker Louis Schwartzberg recently featured on Oprah's Super Soul Sunday. The book and film pair one of today's most uplifting genres—the natural phenomenon "A Good Day," written by renowned spiritual leader Brother David Steindl-Christ—with stunning images by Schwartzberg. This inspirational package includes not just the book but a DVD with two short films by Schwartzberg (including Gratitude) and Brother David's own A Good Day video. The last page has a link to the "A Good 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](#)



LifelongFaith Associates

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

[Home](#) | [Adult Living](#) | [Discover Faith](#) | [Faith Enrichment](#) | [Scripture](#) | [Seasons](#) | [Service](#) | [Spiritual Life](#) | [Sunday Worship](#)

The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation

A Network of Adult Faith Formation Experiences, Programs, Activities, & Resources

Playlists of Content & Experiences



Adult Living

Find resources for being a Caregiver and an invitation for joining our Caregiver Support Group.

Discover faith forming activities for grandparents to do with their grandchildren.



Discover Faith

Discover Jesus and the Christian faith with two of our invitational experiences:

1. Basics of Christianity - explore the video series on your own; join a Basics small group experience
2. Explore the Christian Faith through the tension Alpha Course with a small group of inquirers



Faith Enrichment

Grow deeper in your Christian faith with one or more of our offerings:

1. A Yearlong Journey into the Christian faith - a 10 session program, monthly at church
2. Living the Spirit-Filled Life Course
3. Practice Makes a Christian - a small group study program
4. Practicing Our Faith - a self-study or group-study for growing in the practice of the Christian faith
5. Sacraments 101 - a video-based introduction or refresher on the Catholic sacraments



Scripture

The focus for each season of Scripture Enrichment is one Gospel - Matthew, Mark, or Luke. We are offering a variety of ways for you to study and read the Gospels:

1. Participate in the Gospel Presentation Series
2. Participate in a Small Group Gospel Bible Study
3. Explore the Gospel On-Your-Own
4. Take an Online Course
5. Develop a Gospel Study Plan using a Bible App
6. Discover Online Devotions and Bible Studies



Seasons

Deepen your understanding and celebration of the seasons of year at home during Advent-Christmas, and Lent.

Deepen your understanding of the death and resurrection of Jesus as presented in the four Gospels in preparation for Holy Week.

1. Participate in a Four-Session Presentation Series at Church
2. Watch the Four Video Presentations on Your Own or with a Small Group
3. Participate in a Six-Week Small Group Scripture Study
4. Study the Death and Resurrection of Jesus of On-Your-Own



Service & Mission

The Focus for the year is *Poverty in our Community & Country*. Get involved with an action project and learn more about poverty.

Action:

1. Build a Home
2. Participate in "Serve the Community" Day
3. Support the Education of Children
4. Assemble Promise Packs for Refugees

Learn:

1. Explore the Christian practice of transforming the world in the U.S.
2. Explore poverty in the U.S.
3. Explore stories of poverty in the U.S.
4. See who's poor in the U.S.



Spiritual Life

Develop your spiritual life through a variety of spiritual enrichment experiences:

1. Participate in our five-session Spiritual Practices Course
2. Join a Book Study for Spring: *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr
3. Explore Prayer Practices - experience a variety of ways to pray with these online resources
4. Take Time for Daily Devotion - select a daily prayer resources from the variety of online daily devotions
5. Take an Online Course or Make a Retreat with a Spiritual Master
6. Make an Online Retreat using the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises



Sunday Worship

Bring Sunday worship home with you and make it a seven-day experience:

1. Read the Daily Scriptures & Watch a Video Reflection
2. Watch a Video Reflection on the Sunday Readings
3. Reflect on the Sunday Readings with Lectio Divina
4. Learn More About the Sunday Scripture Readings
5. Live Sunday All Week @Home

Spiritual Enrichment

Spiritual Practices for Living
a five session weekly program at church - presented by five experts



1. Prayer Styles & Traditions
2. Mind-Body Prayer
3. Contemplation & Meditation
4. Spiritual Reading & Praying with Art and Music
5. Sabbath

[Register for the Program](#) [Watch Each Presentation Online](#)

Course Book - Select One

- *Catholic Spiritual Classics: A Treasury of Our Faith*, edited by Griffith and Thomas H. Groome, editors (Paravote, 2012)
- *Sacred Mysteries: Awakening Your Sense for God's Gift* (Eerdmans, 2014)
- *Contemplation: Both Holy Spirit*, (Oxford University Press, 2015)

Living the Spiritual Practices
resources for continuing growth



The following articles and activities provide helpful tools for deepening your understanding of the spiritual practices in our course, and to help you integrate them into your daily life. And be sure to check out the prayer activities on this web page.

 The Practice of Forgiving.pdf <small>Download File</small>	 The Practice of Praying.pdf <small>Download File</small>
 The Practice of Obedience.pdf <small>Download File</small>	 The Practice of Keeping Sabbath.pdf <small>Download File</small>
 The Practice of Reading the Bible.pdf <small>Download File</small>	

Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life
By Richard Rohr



In *Falling Upward*, Fr. Richard Rohr seeks to help readers understand the tasks of the two halves of life and to show them that those who have fallen, failed, or "gone deeper" are the only ones who understand it all. Heeds of the book to those of the second half of life is largely about going out, dealing with heart issues, and being in touch, but the whole thrust of this book is exactly the opposite: What looks like falling down can turn out to be experienced as "falling upward." Fr. Rohr, a Benedictine monk, explains the spiritual journey of the two halves of life, and how the second half of life can and should be full of spiritual richness, and offer a new sense of hope, spiritual freedom, and joy. This important book explains the transformative message that we grow spiritually much more by being wrong than by being right.

[Book Group at Church](#) [Book Group Online](#) [Next Year Own Group](#) [Falling Upward Book Excerpt.pdf](#)
Download File

[Falling Upward Video Introduction](#)

Explore a Prayer Practice

experience a prayer practice - just click on the title



Contemplative Prayer
Whether you're not the most practiced prayer type of person, or do you like to practice prayer as a regular routine in a traditional book, you'll find there are many ways to pray and how you only take your presence and attention. For those who have plenty of resources for not praying but generally want to know God's presence, contemplative prayer may be something to try.

Centering Prayer
Prayer is a very personal experience of being with God. Each person finds different meanings when to pray. Centering Prayer is a type of meditation prayer that tries to pray. Centering Prayer is a gift of the Holy Spirit. The only way to find out if it helps you find the Holy Spirit is to try it. The only way to find out if it helps you connect with your deepest spiritual feelings is to try it.

Ignatian Exercises
The Exercises are wonderful prayers that can be used to communicate to God our desires, and for God to communicate to us. Using the guidance of voice, raise your body and mind and open your heart to prayer.

Stress of Ignatius
The 16th-century founder of the Jesuits, Ignatius of Loyola, is a spiritual leader who has inspired millions of people to pray. Ignatius of Loyola was a soldier who was wounded in battle and spent time in a hospital. He was inspired by the Eucharist and adapted it for today's interconnected world by giving two practices: where have you found God today and where do you need to find God today?

Lectio Divina
Lectio Divina is Latin for "Holy Reading." It is a type of prayer in which you take a scripture passage and read it slowly, pondering the words and being still and open your heart to insight or action.

Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Hour Prayer)
Praying the "Liturgy of the Hours" also known as The Divine Office is a daily praying monastic tradition. But you don't have to be a monk to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. You can have a daily prayer person can adapt this practice of praying throughout the day.

Take Time for Daily Devotion
find a daily devotion that works for you - just click on the title



3-Minute Retreat
Lectio Divina is a daily prayer. A 3-minute retreat is available via computer app for the iPhone, Android, and the iPad. Each day, a new prayer is available. Meaningful time with God is always just a touch away. [Download the App](#)

Daily Meditation & Reflection from World Resources
Drawn from a wide range of world resources, these short meditations inspire and guide people's mind and heart. Each reflection takes time a minute to read and get on the topic for the day. It is available in the early morning. Sign up on the website to receive email for the January.

Daily Prayer: Jesus Prayer
Daily prayer is essential for nurturing our relationship with Christ. We bring prayer to ourselves for nurturing prayer in all forms of our lives. Through the Holy Spirit, we can have a daily prayer that is a daily prayer. [Download the App](#)

Take a Course with a Spiritual Guide
from [SpiritualityandPractice.com](#)



Wisdom for Living: The Practices of Jesus
By Thomas Keating, Contemplative Outreach
An exploration of the wise and revolutionary teachings of Jesus through the lens of the practices.

Ways to Pray from Around the World
By Maggie Osherson
How to incorporate 12 creative spiritual practices from different cultures and religious traditions into your prayer life.

Centering Prayer
By Cynthia Bourgeault
Teachings about a no-frills form of meditation which reconnects directly to Christianity's hidden treasure of mystical wisdom.

Make a Retreat - Online



Craighead University Online Retreat
This is a retreat designed for people that busy to make a traditional retreat. People can experience a relationship with God coming alive in the midst of everyday life. A simple guide each week to prayer, reflection, questions and doubts into the background of our busy lives. The retreat is led by Maggie Osherson and is a one-week, two-day retreat. It will fit with the Liturgy of the Hours. People can make the retreat alone, with a spiritual director, or have a group to make the retreat together.

Family Faith Formation Network



FAMILIES AT THE CENTER

[HOME](#) [FAMILY LIFE](#) [PARENTS](#) [GOD IN LIFE](#) [FAITH @ HOME](#) [MILESTONES](#) [SEASONS](#) [SUNDAY WORSHIP](#) [FAITH @ CHURCH](#)

Families at the Center of Faith Formation

A Network of Experiences, Activities & Resources for Families with Children



Family Life

Each month we will explore, experience, and practice an important family asset that can enrich your family relationships and build a stronger family.

1. January: The Family Meal
2. February: Forgiveness
3. March: Managing Household Life
4. April: Celebrating Rituals and Milestones

Join us for our MONTHLY FAMILY GATHERINGS on the first Sunday of each month after Sunday worship. This will be a time to explore and experience the monthly theme and learn how to practice it at home.

Use the resource that accompanies each month's theme for PRACTICE @HOME. Each resource includes stories, Biblical reflections, and family activities.

[FAMILY LIFE](#)



Parents

"Just for Parents" offers a variety of ways for you to enhance and enrich your knowledge and skills for parenting children and teens. All of these programs, activities, and resources are developed around research-tested ways to help your children and teens grow in healthy and positive ways by 1) expressing care, 2) challenging them to growth, 3) providing them with support, 4) involving them in decision-making, and 5) expanding their possibilities for the future.

1. Participate in the "First Wednesdays" Webinar Series - *without leaving your home!*
2. Use a variety of activities to build positive relationships at home.
3. Learn more about your children and teenager.
4. Participate in a Small Group Study with the best selling book *The Secrets of Happy Families* by Bruce Feiler
5. Watch the the video: "Parenting for the Long Haul" and download the "9 Parenting Strategies" guide.
6. Strengthen family relationships with stories.
7. Discover parenting resources.

[PARENTS](#)



God in Daily Life

How can we discover God and the sacred in the rhythms and practices of everyday life? God is truly present to us each day, and this presence is discovered in the fabric of our lives - our experiences, our relationships, and more. We are all spiritual beings. We can discover the spiritual in our everyday lives, and recognize, understand, and respond to God's presence in each day. Here are four daily practices to help you discover God:

1. Finding God in your day through the daily Examen.
2. Helping children find God through bedtime reflection.
3. Discovering the sacred each day through the FAITHS.
4. Finding God through photos.

[GOD IN DAILY LIFE](#)



Faith @ Home

Faith @ Home provides a variety of activities to help your family grow in faith at home - all of which can be easily integrated into family life. You pick the time

Reading the Bible

- A 12-week Summer Bible Reading Plan for Children
- An Old Testament Bible heroes 5-minute devotional

Learning the Christian Tradition

- Ten Commandments Magnet
- Church Scavenger Hunt
- I L-O-V-E G-O-D
- Stand Up for Others

Praying

- Meal Prayers for All Occasions

Serving Others

- Assemble Promise Kits for Refugees
- Participate in a "Serve the Community" Day
- Collect Food for the Hungry

[FAITH @ HOME](#)



Milestones

Celebrate meaningful, memorial moments in your family's life with these ritual celebrations of milestones.

1. Baptism Anniversary
2. Starting School
3. Getting Ready to Worship
4. Birthday Celebrations

[RITUALS & MILESTONES](#)



Seasons

The seasons of the year offers a variety of opportunities for families to celebrate, learn, and have fun together. We have selected one family activity for each month of the year, reflecting the calendar seasons and the church year seasons.

1. January: Martin Luther King Jr.
2. February: Ash Wednesday
3. March: The Real St. Patrick
4. April: Easter and New Life
5. May: Mother's Day
6. June: Vacation Travel Day
7. July: Independence Day
8. August: Back to School
9. September: Fall Harvest
10. October: A Helping Halloween
11. November: Thanksgiving
12. December: Christmas is Coming!

[SEASONS](#)



Bible & Worship

Bring the message and experience of Sunday worship into your home. Try one or more of the following activities to learn more about the Sunday Scripture readings and to find ways to apply God's message to your lives.

1. Review this Sunday's Worship service.
2. Watch a video reflection on the Sunday reading in story and music.
3. Use "Taking Faith Home" for your daily devotion, Bible reading, and family conversation.
4. Use "Sunday Connection" to connect Sunday worship with daily life, and engage children in creative activities.
5. Read the daily Scripture readings & watch a video reflection

[BIBLE & WORSHIP](#)



Faith @ Church

Participate with all generations in the events and experiences of the faith community and connect your experiences at church with your faith at home.

1. Worshipping Together on Sunday
2. Celebrating the Church Year Feasts & Seasons
3. Engaging in Service to the Community & World
4. Gathering for Social Events
5. Celebrating Rituals & Sacraments
6. Gathering with All Ages for Learning

[FAITH @ CHURCH](#)

Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach to develop the faith of families with young children....

1. *Getting Started Families* (little faith experience)
 2. *Growing Families* (somewhat connected to faith community)
 3. *Going Deeper Families* (involved and practicing)
- How would you engage the parents?
 - How would you engage the children and whole family?

Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach for first communion...

1. *Getting Started Children* (little to no faith forming experiences)
 2. *Growing Children* (some faith forming experiences)
 3. *Going Deeper Children* (involved and practicing)
- What would faith formation look like with these three “types” of children?
 - What would parent and family faith formation look like?

Playlists of Content & Experiences

If you were to use a Playlist approach for confirmation...

1. *Getting Started Adolescents* (little to no faith forming experiences since childhood)
 2. *Growing Adolescents* (some faith forming experiences in childhood)
 3. *Going Deeper Adolescents* (involved and practicing)
- What would faith formation look like with these three “types” of adolescents?
 - What would parent and family faith formation look like?

Transforming Our Role

Balancing Both Roles

Current Roles

- Developing religious content
- Designing programming
- Managing programming
- Teaching/Facilitating programming

Emerging Roles

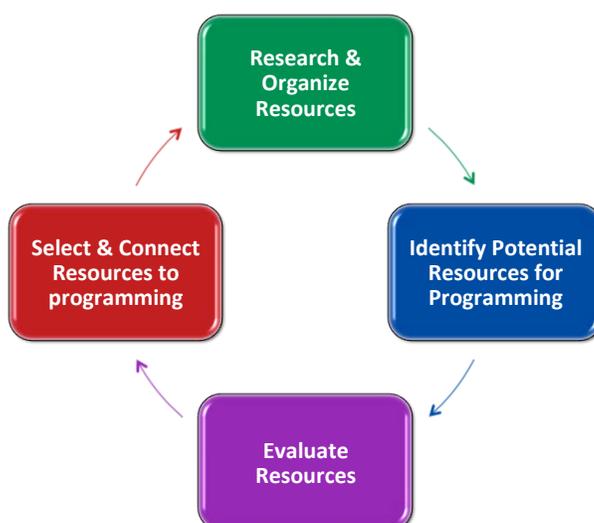
- *Designing* faith forming environments —*architecture*
- *Designing Digital Platforms* for faith forming content
- *Curating* religious content and experiences

What is Content Curation (Beth Kanter)

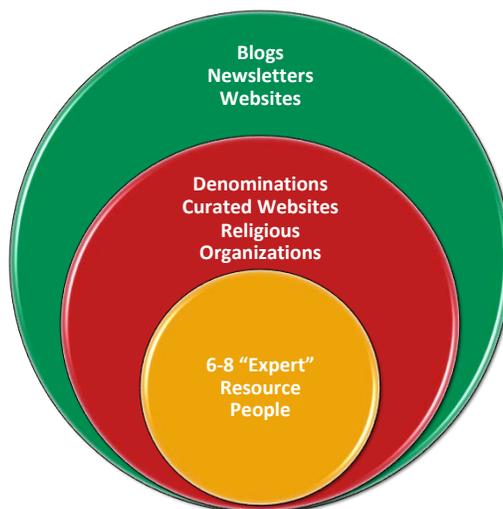
Content curation is the process of sorting through the vast amounts of content on the web and presenting it in a meaningful and organized way around a specific theme.

- The work involves sifting, sorting, arranging, and publishing information.
- A content curator picks the best content that is important and relevant to share with their community.
- It isn't unlike what a museum curator does to produce an exhibition: They identify the theme, they provide the context, they decide which paintings to hang on the wall, how they should be annotated, and how they should be displayed for the public.

Curating Religious Content



Develop Trusted Sources



Develop a Research Checklist

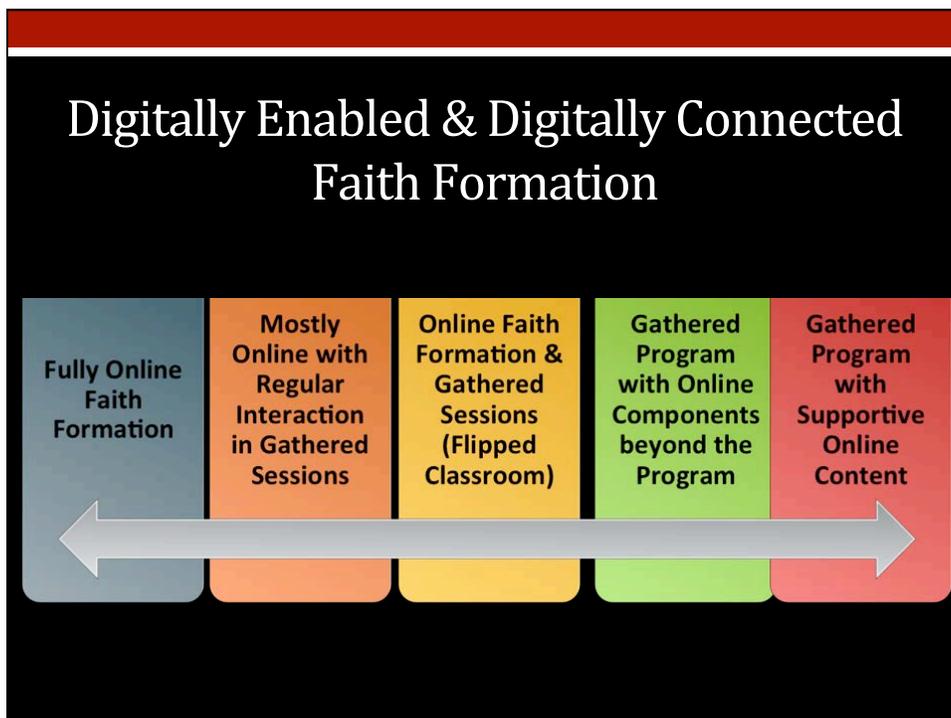
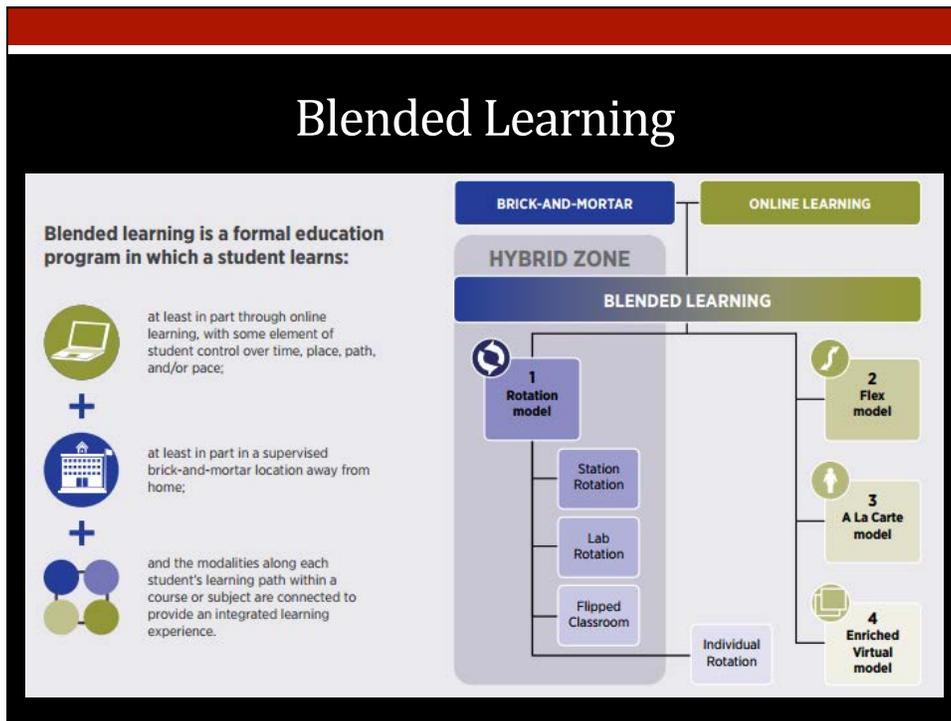
1. People: teachers, mentors/guides, guest presenters
2. Community programs: churches, agencies, organizations,
3. Educational institutions: colleges, seminaries
4. Retreat and spiritual life centers, monasteries
5. Denominational programs, events, websites
6. Museums
7. Books (with study guides) & E-books
8. Apps
9. Audio podcasts & audio learning programs
10. Videos & video learning programs
11. Online courses & online activities
12. Television shows
13. Organizational websites
14. Resource center websites

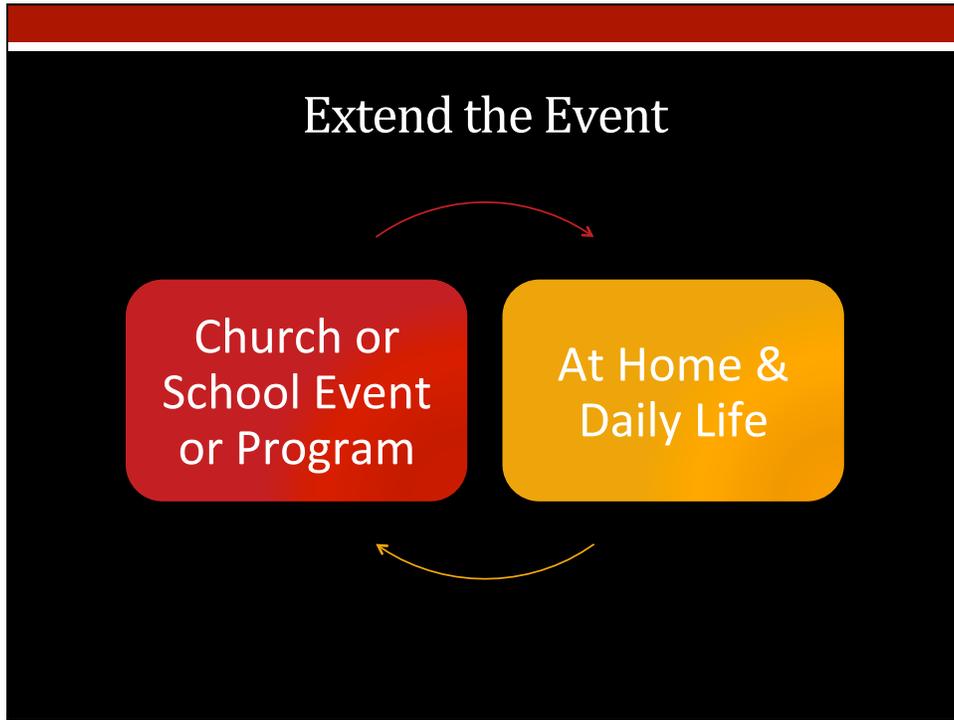
Develop Evaluation Criteria

- ✓ Biblical content and interpretation
- ✓ Theological content and emphasis
- ✓ Developmental appropriateness
- ✓ Ethnic-Cultural appropriateness
- ✓ Inclusive of diversity
- ✓ Respect for diverse ways of learning
- ✓ Appearance and visual appeal
- ✓ Ease-of-Use
- ✓ Quality of Experience
- ✓ Applicable: Able to be incorporated into daily and home life

Digital Faith Formation Strategies







Sunday Worship

- Learning
- Praying
- Reading the Bible: Daily Readings
- Living

The Sunday Website
of Saint Louis University

Español

3rd Sunday of Easter A
April 30, 2017

General Intercessions for Sunday
Share this Web Site!
Search for other Sunday
Email Us!
liturgy@slu.edu

Praying Toward Sunday

Spirituality of the Readings

Get to Know the Readings

Music of Sunday's Mass

General Intercessions

LECTIO DIVINA - SUNDAY, MAY 7TH, 2017

Home | Lenten Devotion

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES
AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

ARCHIVES: Choose a Year

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

READINGS FROM JOHN 10: 1-10

Other Readings:
Acts 2:14a, 36-41, 1 Peter 2:20b-25

LECTIO
THE GOOD SHEPHERD

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber." But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of the stranger."

AN AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE PRODUCTION

OPENING THE WORD

4th Sunday of Easter
The Good Shepherd

▶ PLAY

The Five Loaves

Reflection resources for parishes, faith sharing groups and individuals.

May 7, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Easter

How do you listen to the Good Shepherd's voice? Prayer is the spiritual practice that allows us to listen with the heart. In the busy sounds of everyday life, in difficult times, essential listening requires discernment.

Timothy D. Smith's pilgrimage song, Give Me Ears to Listen, provides a moment for reflection.

Subscribe to Between Sundays Free!

Events | The Five Practices | Weekly Video for Your Website

Events from The Five Loaves | The Five Practices of Christian Discipleship | In Site™ Weekly Gospel Reflection on your parish website

Sunday Worship Tri-Saints Lutheran Church

TRI-SAINTS LUTHERAN PARISH
AN ELCA PARISH IN BYRON AND HARDY, KENTUCKY

Taking Worship Home
Choose your age- group or interest below, and you will find a great activity to extend your worship experience beyond the walls of your church.

The Sixth Sunday in Lent: April 9, 2017
Focus Word: Praise
Focus Bible Verse
"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21:9b NKJV)

Seasonal Devotions
Click on the pictures below to learn more.

Weekly Devotions for Children

Free Indeed Daily Check

Lent in a Dish for Families

Free Daily Devotion for Adults

Prayer Practices
Click on the pictures below to learn more.

Praying Around the Lord's Prayer

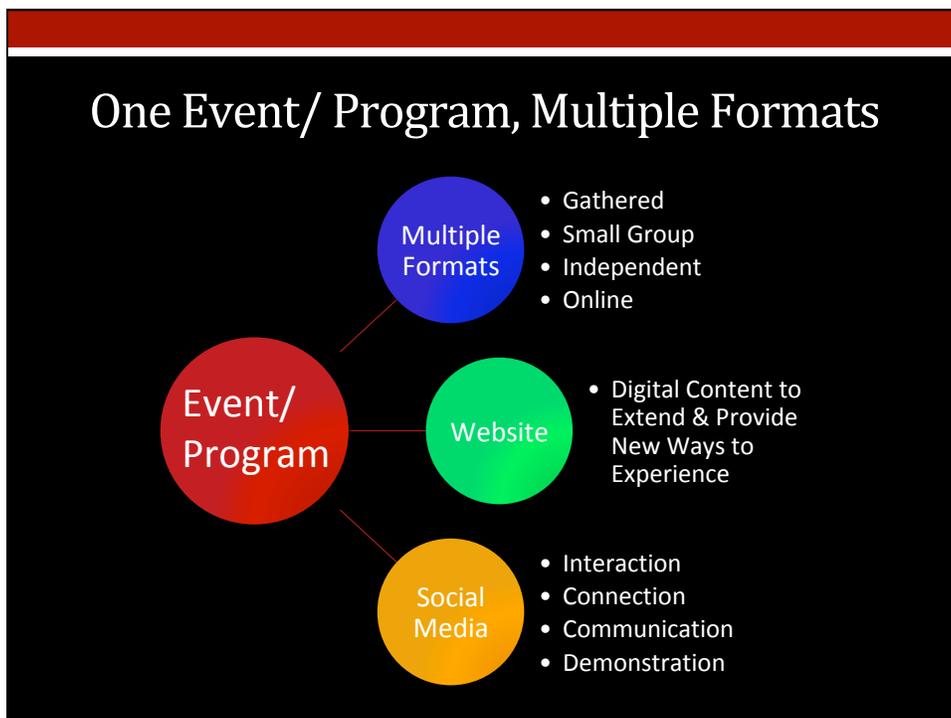
Prayer Posters: Praise

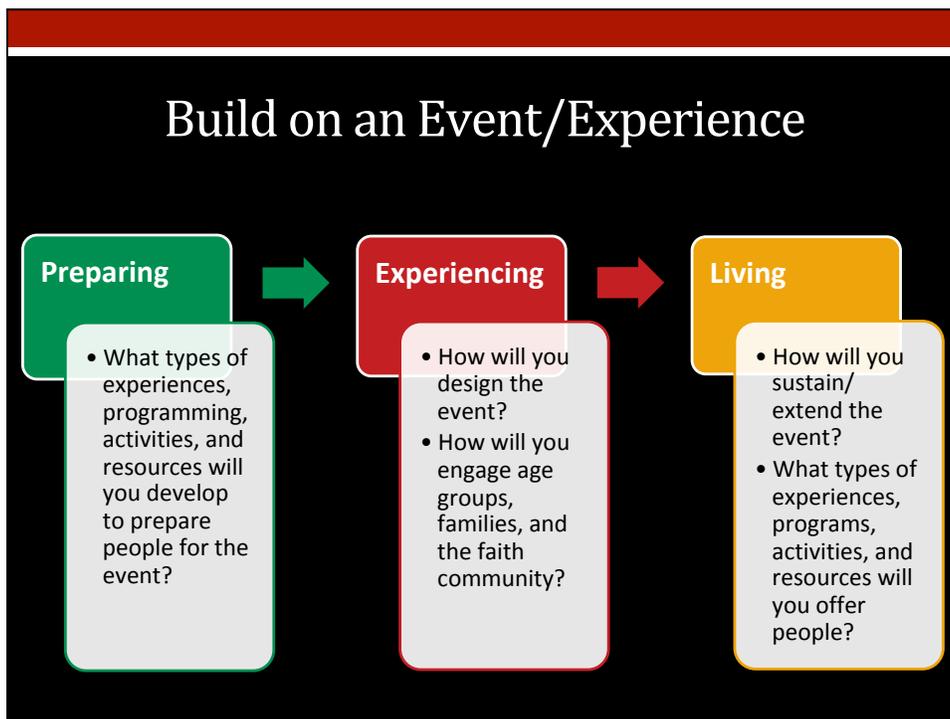
Coloring Prayer: Praise

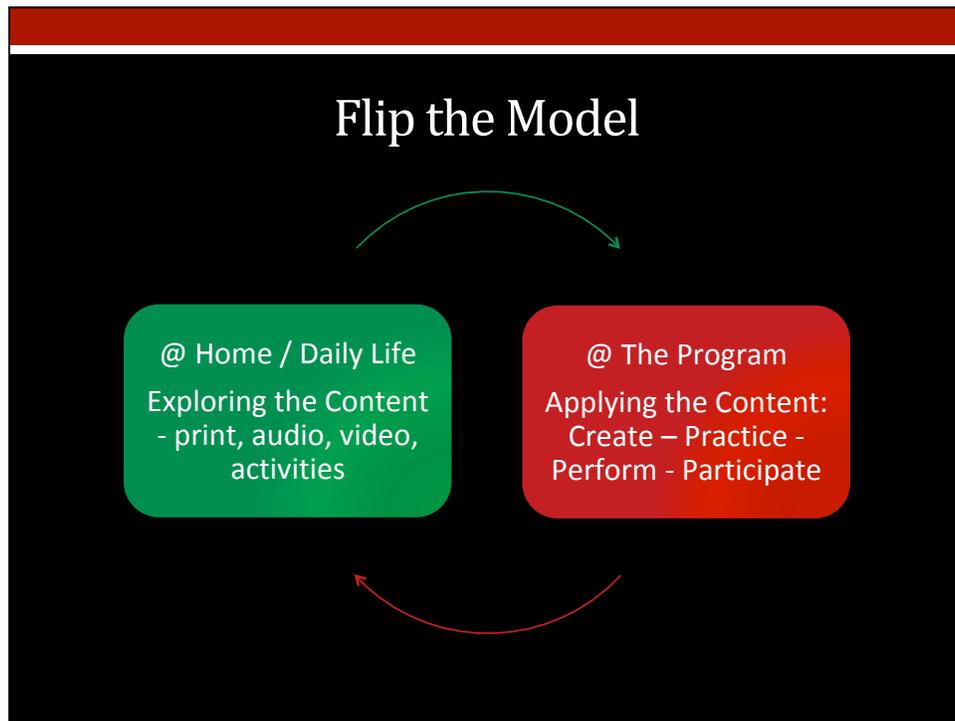
See and Hear the Good News

And Then He Began His Week

Keep It Simple for Good Friday







Christian Initiation & New Member Formation

A video player interface is shown. The video content features a man in a purple shirt standing in front of a church building with a cross on the roof. The video title is 'Intro to The Basics of Christianity' and the subtitle is 'by Pastor Bill Crabtree of Silverdale Lutheran Church'. The video player includes standard controls like play, pause, and volume.

Flip the Model



HOME PRACTICES E-COURSES FILMS BOOKS ARTS QUOTES BLOGS EXPLORATIONS ABOUT

ON-DEMAND E-COURSES

- Retreats on Classic Practices** (21 e-courses)
Step-by-step instructions from well-known spiritual teachers on practices from the world's religions. Includes essays, audio, videos, and commentaries.
- Retreats on Sacred Texts** (11 e-courses)
Passages from sacred texts and commentaries by our teachers on living the wisdom. Ruth, The Gospel of Thomas, The Psalms, The Gospels, A Course in Miracles, The Qur'an, The Tao Te Ching, and more.
- Elder Spirituality E-Courses** (21 programs)
The stories by elders in courses that inform spirit. Plus practical programs for the spiritual work of this stage of life.
- Practicing Spirituality: The Religions** (11 e-courses)
40-part programs using representative excerpts from books by teachers from each tradition, each with a suggestion for how to practice the wisdom in your daily life.
- Practicing Spirituality: Places, Activities & Relationships** (11 e-courses)
40-part programs using book excerpts and practice suggestions to show how to be spiritual at home, at work, in nature, during stress, with children, and more.
- Practicing Spirituality: Master Teachers** (11 e-courses)
40-part programs using excerpts from the writings of spiritual masters as the spiritual centers for a variety of accessible spiritual practices.

OUR E-COURSES

Most of our best to go away on a spiritual retreat to:

- reflect upon our lives,
- renew our connection to Spirit,
- discover great teachers,
- learn spiritual practices,
- find a spiritual community.

We bring the retreats to you! SAP e-courses, designed to fit your schedule and your budget, turns your email inbox into a spiritual retreat center.

MORE ABOUT OUR E-COURSES

- Current E-Courses with Practice Direct
- What People Are Saying
- Custom E-Courses
- FAQs
- SAP E-Course Brochure (PDF)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCHNext
Online Christian Learning from expert teachers in scripture, liturgy, prayer, family, self-care, church history, theology, and more.

Home | Guidelines from Leadership | Contact | Practice Direct | The Holy Spirit | Retreat | The Big One | BookList | Launch Plan

CIN
www.churchnext.org

Courses

ChurchNext launches a new course every week. Here's a list of those currently available. Just click on the class for more information.

Bible Study
 - **Genesis** Bible 1 with Eric Oliver, Phyllis Sticks, and Rachel Sticks Stone
 - **Genesis** Bible 2 with Phyllis Sticks and Joe Winkler
 - **Genesis** Bible 3 with William Willmore and Joe Winkler
 - **Genesis** Practice with Steve McLean and Joe Winkler
 - **Genesis** Practice 2 with Mike Daugherty and Phyllis Sticks
 - **Genesis** Practice with Steve Daugherty, Steven Stearns, and Doug Pugh
 - **Approaching the Light with Rick Lantry**
 - **Getting More Out of the Bible with Justin Welby**
 - **Introduction to the Bible with Warren Sabersky**
 - **Introducing the Psalms with Steve Everett**
 - **Introducing the Gospels with Michael Grant**

Categories
 - **Audio**
 - **Audio**
 - **Audio**
 - **Audio**

Follow the Blog
 - Follow us to receive notifications of new posts to read.
 - [Follow the Blog](#)

ChurchNext Links
 - ChurchNext Launch Book report
 - Teachers in Progress, Preps, and Important Dates report. (Must see content in a web, video, or document report)

FORMED

The Best Catholic Content. All In One Place.

FORMED.org is a revolutionary online platform featuring the best Catholic videos, audio talks, eBooks and movies from trusted partners like the Augustine Institute, St. Paul Center, Marian Fathers, Lighthouse Catholic Media, Ignatius Press and Word on Fire. Catechism and Personal Faith Formation are at the fingertips of every parishioner. Visit FORMED.org to learn about these resources delivered to you by the Augustine Institute.

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Flip Christian Initiation

CATHOLICISM



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ASCENSION PRESENTS

my Catholic Faith DELIVERED™

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. By having both in person classes and an online study we hope to help families learn more about their faith while respecting the many demands for their time.

Confirmation

CONFIRMATION
Be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit

Welcome to Confirmation

Confirmation Registration is Taking Place. Click to Register Now.

LEARNING
login

Confirmation 1
Calendar of Dates

Today [] [] [] []

Sunday, September 22
5:00pm Homecoming Mass

Saturday, September 28
7:30am Confirmation 1 Retreat

Sunday, October 6
4:00pm Confirmation 1 Class

Sunday, October 27

PROGRAM
requirements

Confirmation 2
Calendar of Dates

Today [] [] [] []

Sunday, September 22
5:00pm Homecoming Mass

Sunday, October 20
4:00pm Confirmation 2 Class

Sunday, October 27
4:00pm Confirmation 2 - Safe

Sunday, November 17

SERVICE
projects

Insights
Calendar of Dates

Today [] [] [] []

Sunday, September 22
5:00pm Homecoming Mass

Wednesday, September 25
7:00pm Insight

Wednesday, October 9
7:00pm Insight

Wednesday, October 16

Program Requirements

- 1) PARTICIPATE IN WEEKLY ONLINE LEARNING
 - Complete weekly online lesson
 - Participate in online small group discussions
- 2) ATTEND MONTHLY SUNDAY SESSIONS
 - Sessions begin at 4:00 p.m. and end after the 5:30 p.m. Mass
 - 1 Absence allowed
- 3) SERVICE PROJECTS
 - Participate in 2 service projects per year (Service project opportunities will be available online you would like to participate in)
 - Write one reflection per project completed online
- 4) ATTEND "INSIGHT" (YOUTH GROUP) MEETINGS
 - Attend 2 Insight Youth Ministry Meetings, more is encouraged!
 - Insight takes place Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 8:30 PM in Knight Hall (please reference or
- 5) ATTEND A CONFIRMATION RETREAT EACH YEAR
 - Confirmation I - One-day retreat with parent or proxy (September 28, 2013)
 - Confirmation II - Overnight-weekend retreat (February 14-16 2014 or March 7-9, 2014)
 - *** Registration for Confirmation II Retreat will begin online January 6, 2014

Integrate Online and Gathered

THE SLATE PROJECT

HOME ABOUT CONNECT BLOG COMMUNITY



CHURCH WITH A CLEAN SLATE

WHAT'S NEW

The Slate Project is a new kind of Christian community that gathers both on-line and face-to-face in Baltimore, Maryland.

We are a movement to change the church from inside the inside out.

We are committed to following the way of Jesus together, into our local and digital neighborhoods and discerning in community how to be the church in the 21st century.

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

<p>Mondays What: #BreakingBread (Dinner Church) Where: 4 E University Pkwy Bmore, MD 212 When: 6 PM EST</p>	
<p>Wednesday What: #SlateReads (Live Tweet Chat- Book Discussion) Where: Twitter-- use the digital bookmark #SlateReads When: 8 PM EST</p>	
<p>Thursdays What: #SlateSpeak (Live Tweet Chat- new topic each week) Where: Twitter-- use the digital bookmark #SlateSpeak When: 9 PM EST</p>	



#BreakingBread

Our weekly face-to-face worship experience happens on Monday nights with a "dinner liturgy" we call #BreakingBread.

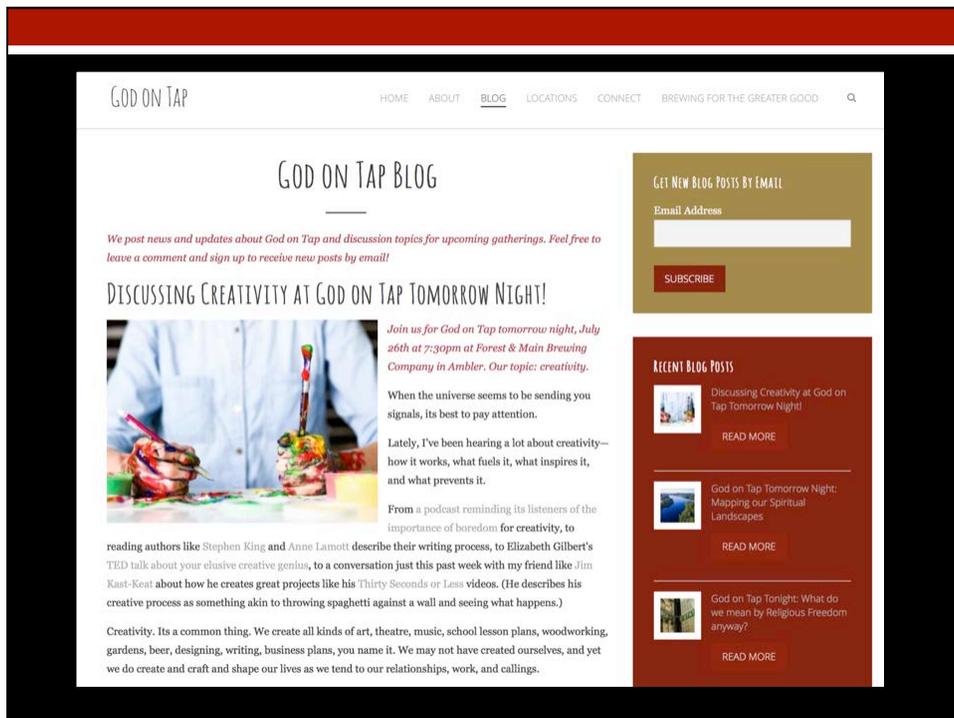
Starting at 6pm, everyone is invited to participate in transforming our "borrowed space" (graciously offered to us by the [Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation and Diocese of Maryland](#)) into an intimate dinner setting for thirty or so people.

#Slatereads

#SlateReads is our on-line book study that happens on Twitter every Wednesday night at 8PM EST.

There is a reading for each week and the conversation is informed by those readings.

Follow the hashtag #SlateReads to participate!



Online 40-Day Lent Curriculum

Church →	Daily & Home	← Online
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday • Lenten Sunday liturgies • Stations of the Cross • Lenten prayer • Lenten retreat • Lenten service • Lenten soup suppers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fasting • Praying • Service/ Almsgiving • Lectionary reflection • Family Lenten activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten learning resources • Lenten calendar • Daily Lenten prayer • Weekly table prayer • Video resources • Online retreat experience

Online Prayer

Pastoral Care

Sign In or Register

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Personal, Protected Websites for Every Health Journey

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Person's Name

NOLAN L., CaringBridge User KRISTEL S., CaringBridge Donor

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[Get Started](#)

Save Time with One Update

No more repeating the story over and over. Connect with all of your family and friends at once, giving you time to focus on what matters.

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- School Teacher**: Strengthen your knowledge of the Catholic faith by joining other dedicated Catholic school educators in a virtual support community.
- Parishioner**: Receive an e-mail course for parishioners for culture in Diocesan formation.
- Catechist**: Receive an e-mail course for catechists for culture in Diocesan formation.

Courses Starting on June 12

- Biblical Literacy Series
- Catholic Faith and Tradition for Teachers
- Discipleship: Conversion and Ethical Discernment
- Love Your Neighbor: Intro to the Catholic Faith
- All Lenten Days for Discernment Guides
- International Church: Foundations/Practices
- Intro to the New Testament
- Strategic Guide for the Priesthood
- SCM: Can We Get Our Bibles Right?
- Women and Leadership in the U.S.
- World Mission 101

STYRACIA

Resources for Spiritual Journeys

HOME PRACTICES E-COURSES FILMS BOOKS ARTS QUOTES

ON-DEMAND E-COURSES

- Retreats on Classic Practices**: Deepen your spirituality from well-known spiritual teachers on practices from the world's religions. Enabled lessons, audio, video, and e-books.
- Retreats on Sacred Texts**: Messages from sacred texts and commentaries by our teachers on being the wisdom, Ruth, the Gospel of Thomas, The Psalms, The Gospels, & Church of Writings, the Quran, the Tao Te Ching, and more.
- Elder Spirituality E-Courses**: For elders by elders, e-courses that reflect aging. Plus practical programs on the spiritual work of this stage of life.
- Practicing Spirituality: The Religions**: All religions.
- Practicing Spirituality: Places, Activities & Relationships**: All religions.
- Practicing Spirituality: Master Teachers**: All religions.

BOSTON COLLEGE

STM Online: Crossroads Courses

REGISTER COURSE SCHEDULE

About Crossroads

- Registration
- Course Schedule
- Online Learning
- Certificate
- Computer Requirements
- Course FAQs
- Subject Requirements
- Course Catalog

SCRIPTURE: Encounter the riches of the Bible with an introductory level overview of a specific book, Bible, or with a course that offers a thematic exploration of scripture.

LEARN FROM OUR CHRISTIAN TRADITION: What does it mean to be a Catholic? Christ's category includes a range of courses that help personal identity and describe our beliefs.

SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY: Revere Catholic Christian worship as the "life and soul" of our faith. Learn about the 7 sacraments, liturgy, or focus on practical living with our liturgical life through courses on the Mass and liturgical planning.

THE MORAL LIFE: What is different about human moral existence and liberation? Reflect on these questions in context of Christian theology, with an emphasis on moral theology, the basics of Catholic Social Teaching, and more.

CHURCHNext

Online Christian Learning from expert teachers in scripture, liturgy, prayer, family, self-care, church history

Home Certificate in Holy Leadership Classes Practitioners Our Site Index Support The Big Class Teachers Launch Plan

Courses

ChurchNext launches a new course every week. Here's a list of those currently available. Just click on the class for more information.

Bible Study

- entire Bible with Eric Elton, Phyllis Trible, and Rachel Held Evans
- entire Bible with Holly Rip Miller and Jon Mackay
- entire Bible with William Willimon and Jay Bakker
- entire Practices with Brad McLean and Sam Miles
- entire Practices with Mike Stauffer and Phyllis Trible
- entire Practices with Steve Osborne, Emma Owens, and Doug Pagitt

Approaching Scripture with VIGIL

- Getting More Out of the Bible with Justin Welby
- Introduction to the Bible with Mark Sabelko
- Introducing the Psalms with Isaac Evans
- Introducing the Gospels with Michael Card
- Introducing the Epistles with Michael Card

Categories

Audio
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Audio
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