



**VISION TO REALITY**  
DEVELOPING LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION  
FOR ALL AGES & GENERATIONS



vibrantfaith

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## Vision to Reality Lifelong Faith Formation

1. A New Faith Forming Ecology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
2. Practices for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Faith Formation
3. Designing a Lifelong Plan for Faith Formation: New Models and Strategies
4. Using New Digital Methods and Resources in Faith Formation
5. Designing an Online Platform for Faith Formation Programming
6. Curating Religious Content and Experiences
7. Introducing Faith Formation Innovations into Church Life

## Workshops & Webinars

- ✦ Program 1: *Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*
- ✦ Program 2: *Envisioning Lifelong Faith Formation in Faith Communities*
- ✦ Program 3: *Designing New Projects in Lifelong Faith Formation*
- ✦ Program 4 (Webinar): *Implementing a Faith Formation Plan*
- ✦ Program 5 (Webinar): *Launching a Faith Formation Plan*
- ✦ Program 6: (Webinar): *Reviewing Progress*
- ✦ Program 7. (Gathering): *Sharing Reports on Models and Impact*

# Congregational Assessment

**Congregational Faith Formation Assessment**

The Congregational Faith Formation Assessment tool provides a way for your congregation to examine how it is forming faith through congregational life, family faith formation, age group faith formation, missional faith formation and leadership. Engage the whole team (and other leadership groups) in completing the assessment tool. Rate each item on a scale from poor practice (1) to excellent practice (4). Items that receive a rating of 4 (excellent) or 3 (good) indicate areas of strength. Items that receive a 2 (adequate) or 1 (poor) indicate areas for growth. Compile the results for all of the assessment tools into one report. Analyze the results and circle the items that are in need of attention and development (scores of 1 or 2) and items that your congregation wants to strengthen even if it received a score of 3 (good).

**Part 1. The Congregation Creates a Faith Forming Culture**

	Practice	1	2	3	4
1. <b>God's Living Presence:</b> People experience God's living presence in community, at worship, through study, and in service.					
2. <b>Discipleship:</b> People learn who God is and come to know Jesus Christ personally; learn how to be Christian, and how to discover the meaning of the Bible for their lives.					
3. <b>Community:</b> People experience a life-giving spiritual community of faith, hope, and love, characterized by hospitality, welcoming, love, and support.					
4. <b>Worship:</b> People experience transformative worship experiences that are enlightening, fulfilling, inspiring, interesting, easy to understand, and relevant in daily life.					
5. <b>Liturgical Seasons:</b> People experience the Story of Faith through the celebration of the feasts and seasons of the church year.					
6. <b>Rituals and Milestones:</b> People experience God's love through rituals, sacraments, and milestones that celebrate significant moments in one's life and faith journey.					
7. <b>Prayer:</b> People experience the presence of God as individuals and community through prayer and spiritual disciplines/practices.					
8. <b>Learning:</b> People grow in faith understanding by learning the content of the Christian tradition, reflecting upon that content, integrating it their lives, and living its meaning in the world.					
9. <b>Moral Responsibility:</b> People develop ethical/moral responsibility—learning about Christian perspectives on moral questions and how to apply their faith to decisions about what's right and wrong.					
10. <b>Service &amp; Justice:</b> People are engaged, locally and globally, in serving those in need, working for justice, and caring for God's creation.					
11. <b>Intergenerational Relationships:</b> People develop intergenerational relationships and community where the Christian faith is shared, modeled, and lived.					
12. <b>Intergenerational Faith Experiences:</b> People are engaged in intergenerational faith experiences and activities of worship, prayer, learning, and service as an integral aspect of congregational life.					
13. <b>Digital Ministry:</b> People can grow in faith and discipleship through online faith forming content and social connections on the congregation's website(s) which provides content and experiences to extend participation in congregational life and ministries into daily life.					

1

1. Faith Forming Culture (Intergenerational)
2. Family
3. Life Cycle
4. Missional
5. Leadership

# Faith Formation Profile

**Congregational Faith Formation Profile**

(You can produce a written report or a large chart (newsprint sheets) with all of the information.)

**Part 1. Intergenerational**  
Identify the ways that your congregation nurtures faith through intergenerational faith forming experiences: relationships, community life, worship, learning, service, prayer, etc.

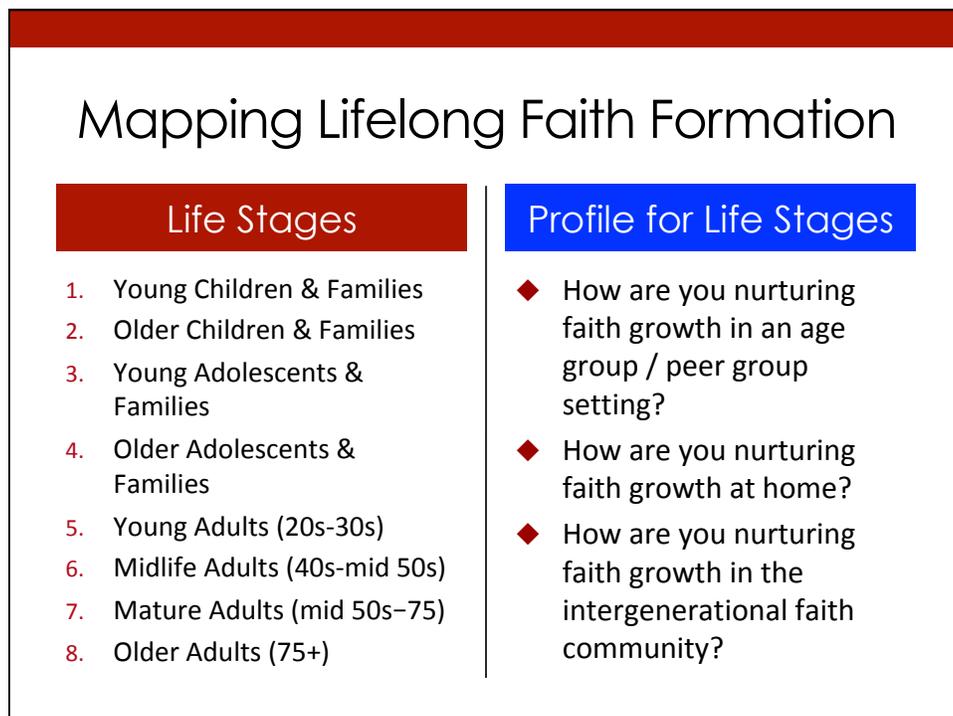
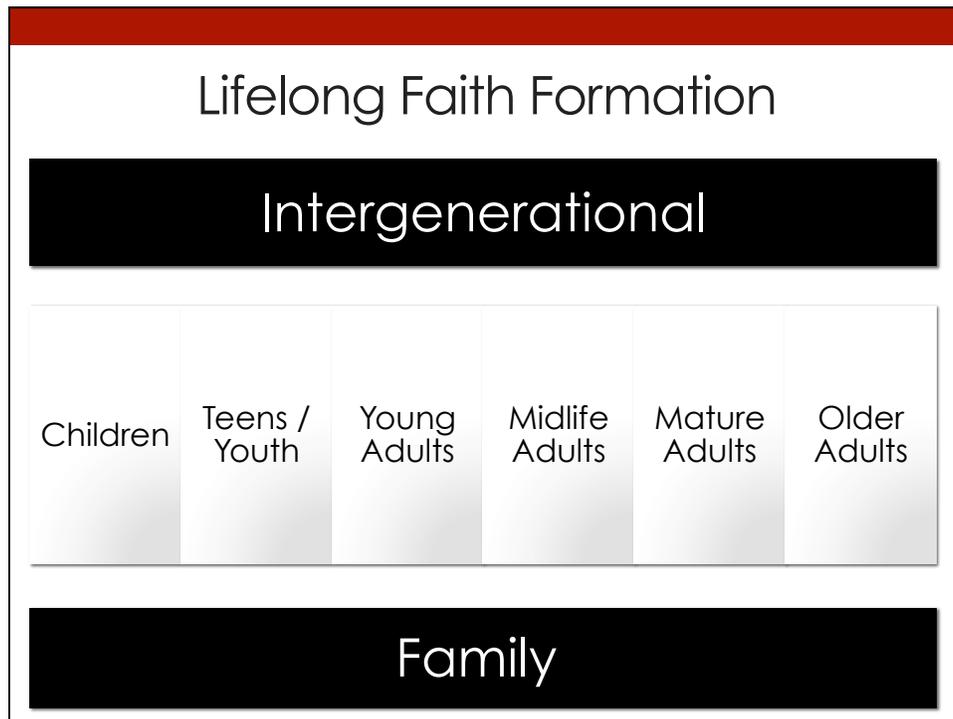
**Part 2. Family**  
Identify the ways that your congregation nurtures family faith at home and through church events, programs, and activities, and how the congregation equips and supports parents.

**Part 3. Lifecycle Faith Formation**

**Profile**  
Identify the ways that your congregation nurtures the faith of each age group: at church, at home, small groups, online, etc.

Young Children	Older Children	Adolescents (middle & high school)	Young Adults	Midlife Adults	Mature Adults	Older Adults

**Part 4. Missional**  
Identify the ways that your congregation engages in missional outreach and relationship building, and provides pathways for people to explore the Christian faith and discipleship. (evangelization and discipleship)



## Part 1. Adaptive Challenges



## 10 Decade Society



## Five Generation Society

- iGeneration (2000-)
- Millennials (1980-99)
- Generation X (1961-1979)
- Baby Boomers (1946-60)
- Builders (before 1946)



## Generations

- iGeneration (2000-)
- Millennials (1980-99)
- Generation X (1961-1979)
- Baby Boomers (1946-60)
- Builders (before 1946)

- ▶ Relationship to Institutions
- ▶ Relationship to Authority
- ▶ Family Relationships
- ▶ Work-Life Balance
- ▶ Communication Style
- ▶ Technology Usage
- ▶ Learning Style
- ▶ Spiritual Expression
- ▶ Worship Style

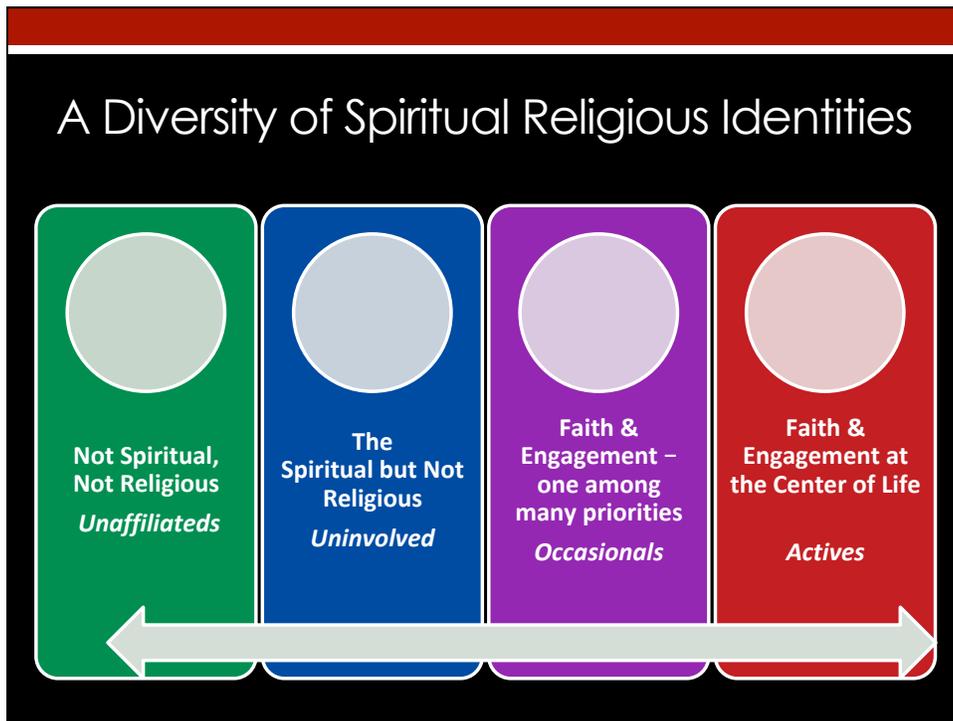
## Contemporary Family Forms



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; majority 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



## 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

## Understanding Families Today

### Spiritual-Religious Diversity

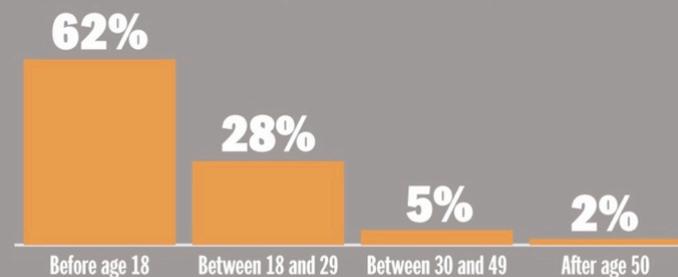
Parents and families reflect an increasing diversity in religious beliefs, practices, and affiliation.

- ✓ 23% of Generation Xers and over 34% of Millennials are not religiously affiliated and the number of unaffiliated Millennials is growing.
- ✓ Families of Generation X and Millennial parents are participating less in church life and Sunday worship. Religion and spirituality may be important to families today, but for many it is not usually expressed by participation in churches.

## 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 (2000+)



## Technological Revolution: The Digital Era (2000s)

-)



## What is the Digital Transformation Making Possible in Learning & Faith Formation?

1. Mobile faith formation – anytime, anyplace, 24x7
2. An abundance of high quality digital content for faith formation – audio, video, print, websites, digital learning platforms, apps, etc.
3. Personalizing faith formation – putting the person at the center of faith formation – not the program
4. Provide multiple ways to learn
5. Develop content in smaller units (micro-learning) that connect together
6. Content and tools to extend and expand faith formation in multiple environments
7. Self-organizing communities of learning and practice

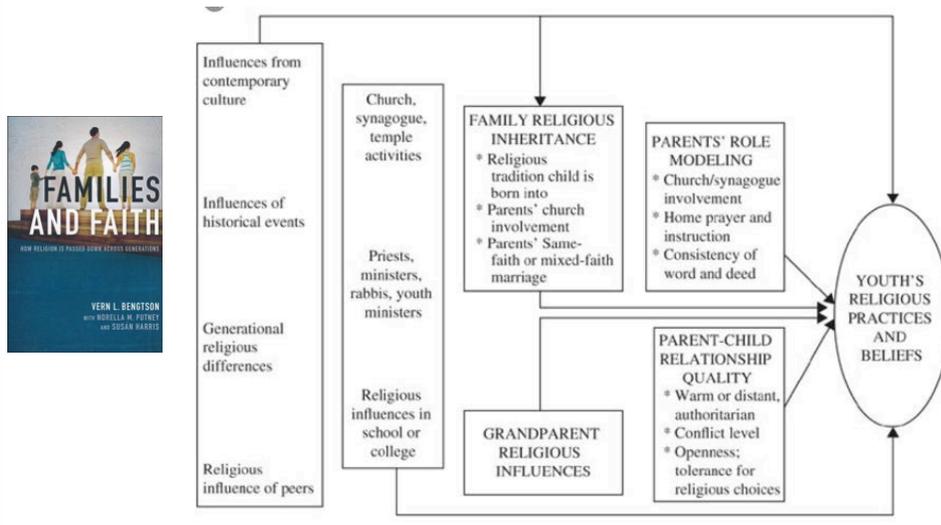
## The Adaptive Challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Faith Formation

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

## Part 2. Insights from Research about Faith Formation



### Intergenerational Religious Transmission

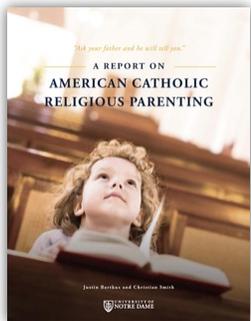


## Family Religious Transmission



- ✦ 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

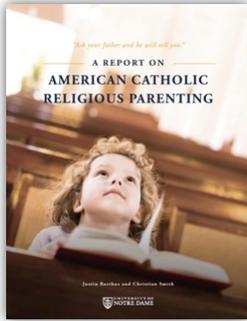
## Family Religious Transmission



*The primary mechanisms by which Catholic identity becomes rooted in children's lives are not Catholic schooling or sacramental preparation, but rather the day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities.*

(Burtkus and Smith)

## Family Religious Transmission



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

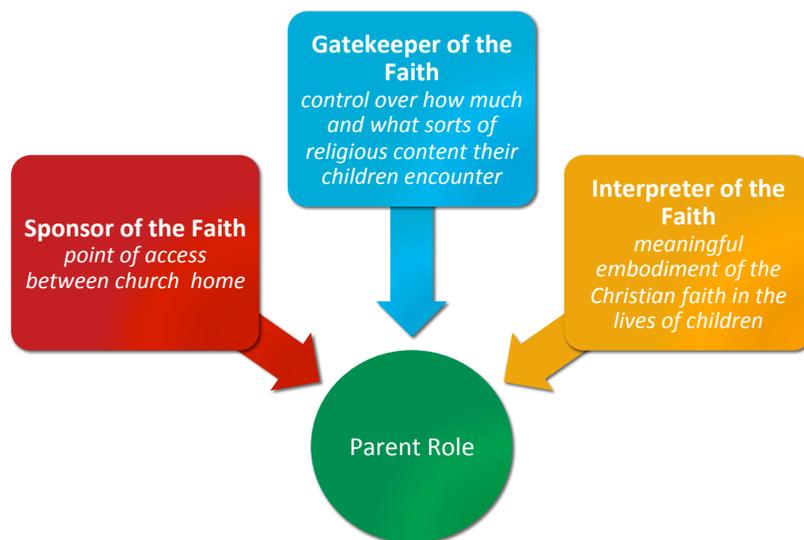
(Burtkus and Smith)

## Family Religious Transmission

- ✦ Parents by the power of their personality, practices, and way of being, model and generate the culture of the household (both explicitly and implicitly).
- ✦ Parents produce, induce, and interpret the household's experiences of Christian faith.
- ✦ Parents are one influence among others - they are nevertheless the dominant influence which orders and shapes the way children experience other influences, i.e. they constellate children's experiences of various cultural currents, including religion.

One of the most basic suggestions of our findings is that young adults arrive at a sense of their fundamental identity and worldview not by weighing all possible intellectual arguments for and against a proposed way of life, but rather by roughly adopting the worldview of those mentors who left the deepest impression upon them—and who loved them and cared for them the most. It should come as no surprise, then, that the emergence of the new generation of dedicated young Catholics will rise and fall with the choices of their parents.  
*(American Catholic Religious Parenting, Burtkus and Smith)*

## Family Religious Transmission: Parents



## Family Religious Transmission (NSYR)

*“Emerging adults who grew up with seriously religious parents are through socialization more likely (1) to have internalized their parents religious worldview, (2) to possess the practical religious know-how needed to live more highly religious lives, and (3) to embody the identity orientations and behavioral tendencies toward continuing to practice what they have been taught religiously.”*

(Christian Smith & Patricia Snell)

## Family Religious Transmission (NSYR)

*“At the heart of this social causal mechanism stands the elementary process of teaching— both formal and informal, verbal and nonverbal, oral and behavioral, intentional and unconscious, through both instruction and role modeling. We believe that one of the main ways by which empirically observed strong parental religion produced strong emerging adult religion in offspring is through the teaching involved in socialization.”*

(*Souls in Transition: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults*  
by Christian Smith with Patricia Snell)

## Family Religious Transmission

“Effective religious socialization comes about through embedded practices; that is, through specific, deliberate religious activities that are firmly intertwined with the daily habits of family routines, of eating and sleeping, of having conversations, of adorning spaces in which people live, of celebrating the holidays, and of being part of a community. Compared with these practices, the formal teachings of religious leaders often pale in significance. Yet when such practices are present, formal teachings also become more important.”

(Robert Wuthnow, *Growing Up Religious*).

## Family Religious Transmission

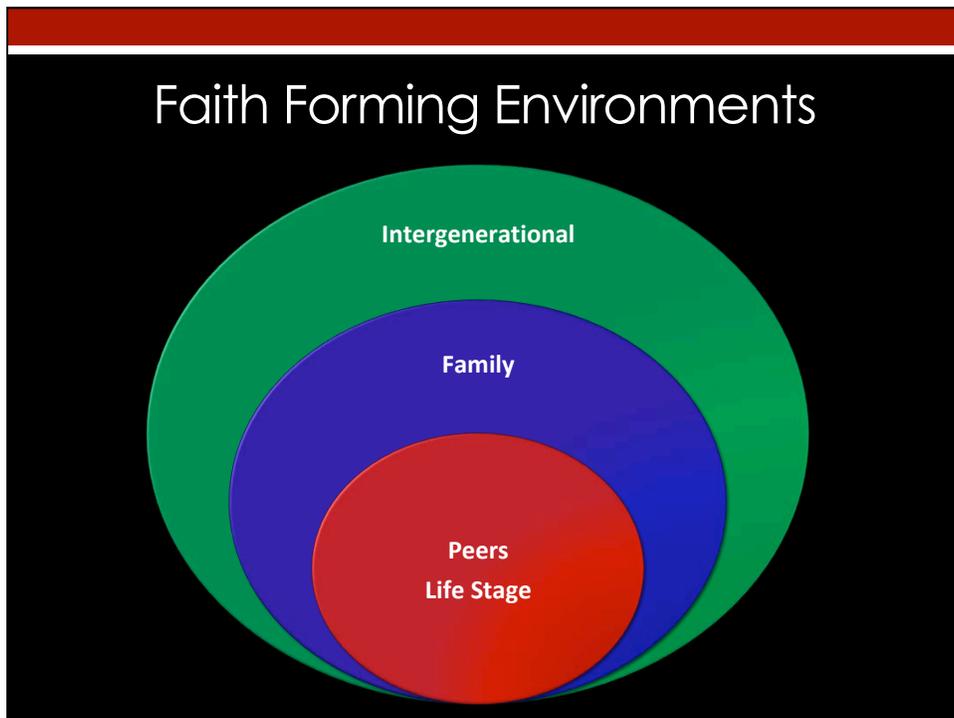
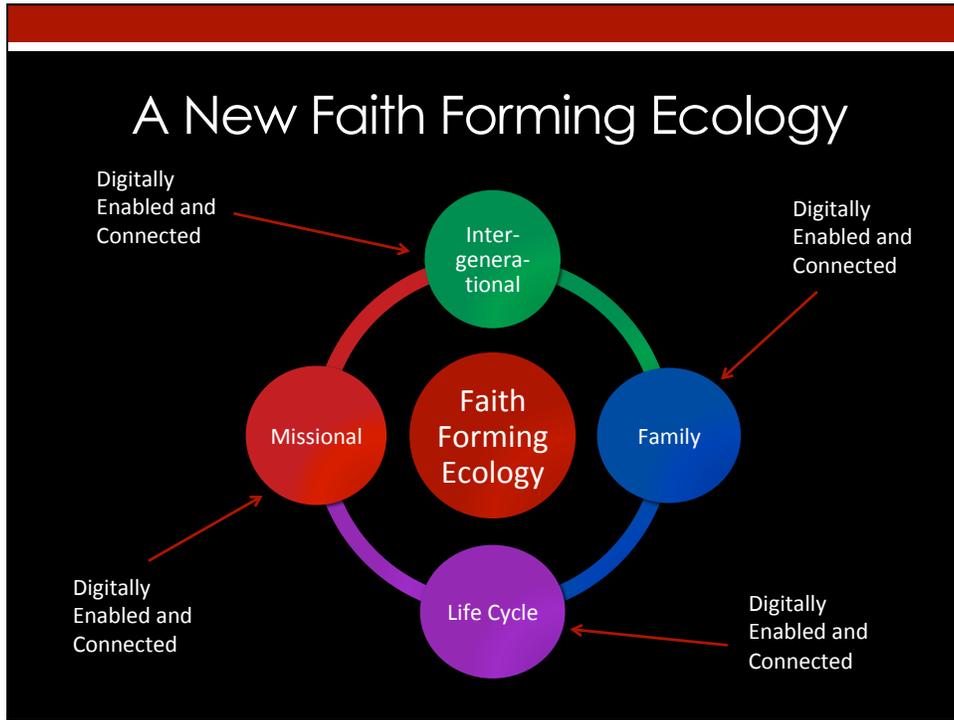
1. Parents' personal faith and practice
2. Parent-child relationship: close, warm
3. Parents' modeling and teaching a religious faith
4. Parents' involvement in church life and Sunday worship
5. Grandparents' religious influence & relationship
6. Religious tradition a child is born into
7. Parents of the same faith
8. Family conversations about faith
9. Family religious practices: prayer, reading the Bible, service to others, celebrating holidays/rituals

## Part 2. Reimagining Faith Formation



## Reimagining Faith Formation

1. A New Ecology of Faith Formation
2. Faith Forming Environments
  - ✦ Intergenerational Relationships and Community
  - ✦ Family Faith Practice @Home
  - ✦ Life Stage Faith Formation
3. Digitally Enabled Faith Formation
4. Personalizing Faith Formation: Pathways & Playlists
5. New Leadership Roles
6. Faith Maturing across the Life Span



## Forming Faith: Intergenerational



- 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*)

*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)

## Worship & Lifelong Faith Formation



### Worship Theme

- Readings
- Homily/Sermon
- Podcast

### Family Youth Adults

- Scripture
- Learn
- Watch / Listen
- Read
- Prayer
- Live

## A Whole Church Curriculum



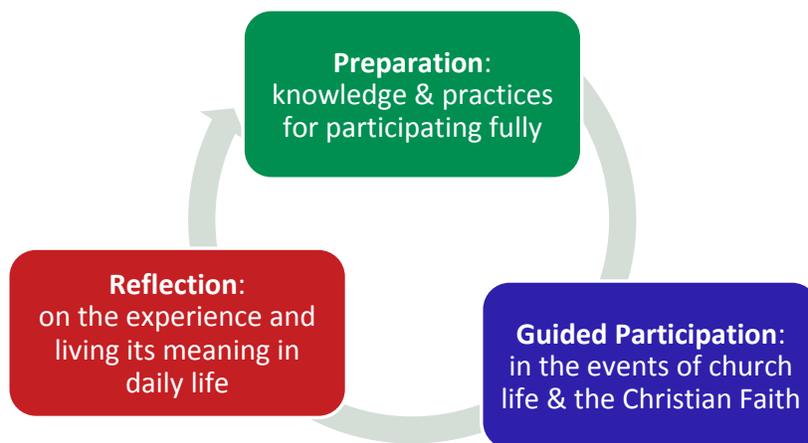
*Engaging all ages and generations together in informing and forming disciples of all ages in Christian identity.*

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

## Become Intentionally Intergenerational



## Intergenerational Learning Process



## Enhance Intergenerational Relationships

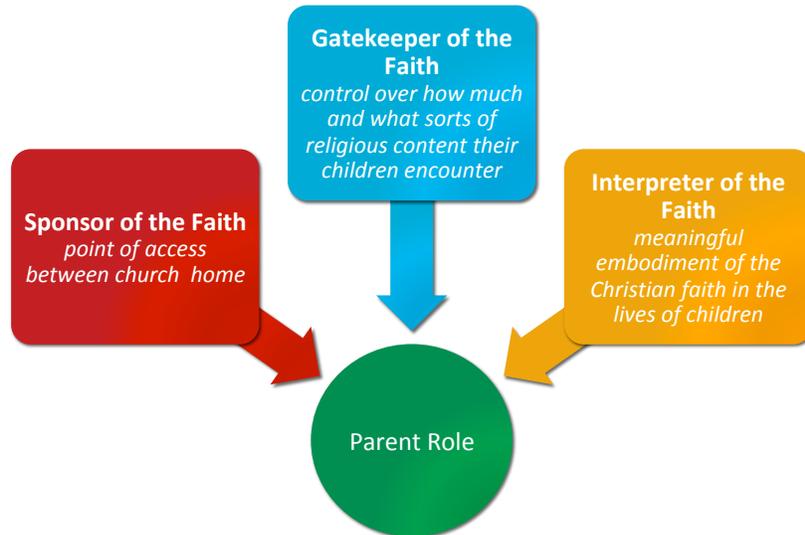
1. Incorporate intergenerational dialogues into programming
2. Develop mentoring relationships
3. Involve the community in praying for each generation,
4. Organize social and recreational activities that build intergenerational relationships
5. "Intergenerationalize" age-group programming
6. Integrate 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

## Forming Faith: Family

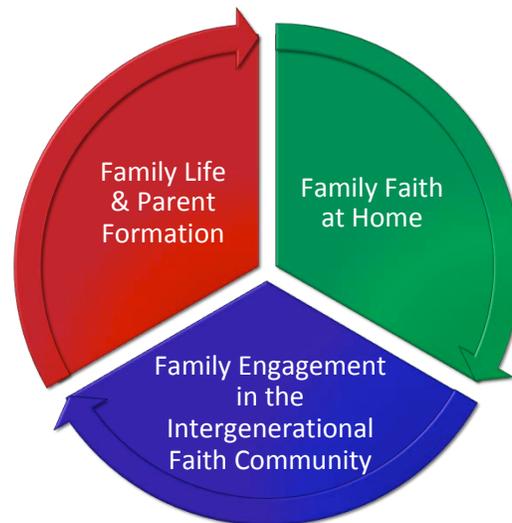


- ✦ Primary Influence on transmission of religious faith and practice: Parents & Family
- ✦ Day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities
- ✦ Secondary Influence: The Congregation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

## Parental Influence



## Family Faith Formation

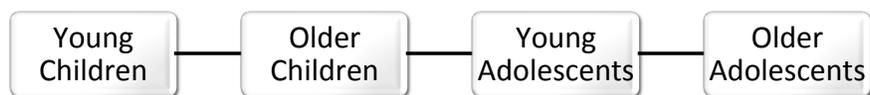


## Family Faith Formation



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

## Family Faith Formation



### Family Faith @ Home

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

### Intergenerational Faith Community

- ✓ Seasonal Events
- ✓ Bible through the Year
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### Family Life & Parent/Grandparent Formation

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

## Faith Practices @ Home

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



Young Children

Older Children

Young Adolescents

Older Adolescents



LifelongFaith Associates

# FAMILIES AT THE CENTER

[HOME](#)   [PARENTS](#)   [FAMILY LIFE](#)   [FAITH @ HOME](#)   [SEASONS](#)   [MILESTONES](#)   [FAITH @ CHURCH](#)   [SACRAMENTS](#)

## Families at the Center of Faith Formation

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

### Seasons of the Year

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
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!

**January: Serving Others**



Observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service—held on the third Monday of January—with your family. Warm the hearts and feet of people seeking help from emergency shelters with socks and personal hygiene supplies.

Try this activity with your family. For instructions follow this link to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

**February: Praying through Lent**



Teach your children a new prayer (or two) over the course of the 40 days of Lent by taping it by their bed and praying it together every night at bedtime.

Try this activity with your family. For instructions and the special worksheet follow this link to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

LENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE HOME

**March: The Real Patrick**



Saint Patrick was a real person, born in Britain in the year 385 C. E. He was once a slave, then ultimately a priest in Ireland. He brought many people to God at a time when many had turned away from the Lord.

Try this activity with your family. For instructions and the special worksheet follow this link to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

**April: New Life**



The popular custom of coloring Easter eggs comes from an ancient Christian practice of dying, cracking, and feasting on eggs as an Easter celebration. Instead of randomly coloring eggs, draw names to decorate (and hide) eggs for one another.

### Rituals & Milestones

*celebrate meaningful, memorable moments in your family*

**Baptism Anniversary**



Share with each of your children the story of their baptism day to celebrate their new life in Christ and embrace their relationship with God as their Father and Creator. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#) for the instructions and worksheets.

**Starting School**



Going off to Preschool or Kindergarten or First Grade for the first time is an exciting milestone for children and their families. As children prepare to venture out from home and begin a new routine at school, they'll hear Jesus' promise to be with them always. Together, the family will create a visual reminder of Jesus' great love for children. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#) for the instructions and worksheets.

**Getting Ready to Worship**



Getting out the door to make it to worship on time can be a trying experience for parents and children. Create a preparation ritual to help your family get ready to worship at your church, whether on Sunday morning, Saturday night, or during the week. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#) for the instructions and worksheets.

**Birthday Celebrations**



**Prayer**  
God, we come today to give thanks to you for creating the life of \_\_\_\_\_ (name). We ask your blessing on \_\_\_\_\_ (name), that he/she may continue to honor and glorify you by using the gifts and talents you have given him/her. We ask that \_\_\_\_\_ (name) continue to grow in age, wisdom and grace—as Jesus grew.

**Scripture Reading**  
Be thankful, let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Letter of Paul to the Colossians.)

**Prayer**  
Through Baptism, (name) entered God's special life of love. On this special day of remembrance we ask that (name) may be faithful to God's love and trust; may make good choices in life; may continue to grow in age, in wisdom

Children's Ministries Faith Formation @ First Church of Simsbury

Home Schedule Preschool Families Elementary Families Teen Families For Kids VBS 2018 Adults Contact

**Faith at Home: God is Love (Feb)**

**Stories to Print and Read**

Jesus Loves the Children from Lambongs to print and read  
 Jesus Love the Children story to print, assemble, and color by Lambongs

Jesus Loves Me story from Lambongs to print and read  
 Jesus Loves Me story to print, assemble, and color by Lambongs

I Love My Bible  
 I Love My Bible story from Lambongs to print and read about how God loves us.  
 I Love MY Bible story to print, assemble, and color by Lambongs

**Activities**

Jesus Loves Me BINGO Jesus Loves Me printable Bingo

Jesus Loves You  
 Heart Matching Game  
 Jesus Love You printable matching heart folder game

God Loves Me - VeggieTales (web).mov  
 You really love me.

VEGGIETALES - JESUS LOVES ME  
 US LOVES ME WHEN I'M GOOD

Jesus File Folder Game  
 Printable Love File Folder Bible Game

**God is love coloring pages**

God is love stain glass coloring picture  
 Measuring God's love coloring picture  
 Jesus loves the children coloring picture  
 Children of God coloring page

## Milestones throughout Life



1. Ritual and blessing
2. Home celebration/ blessing
3. Learning program –
4. Symbol
5. Supporting continued growth



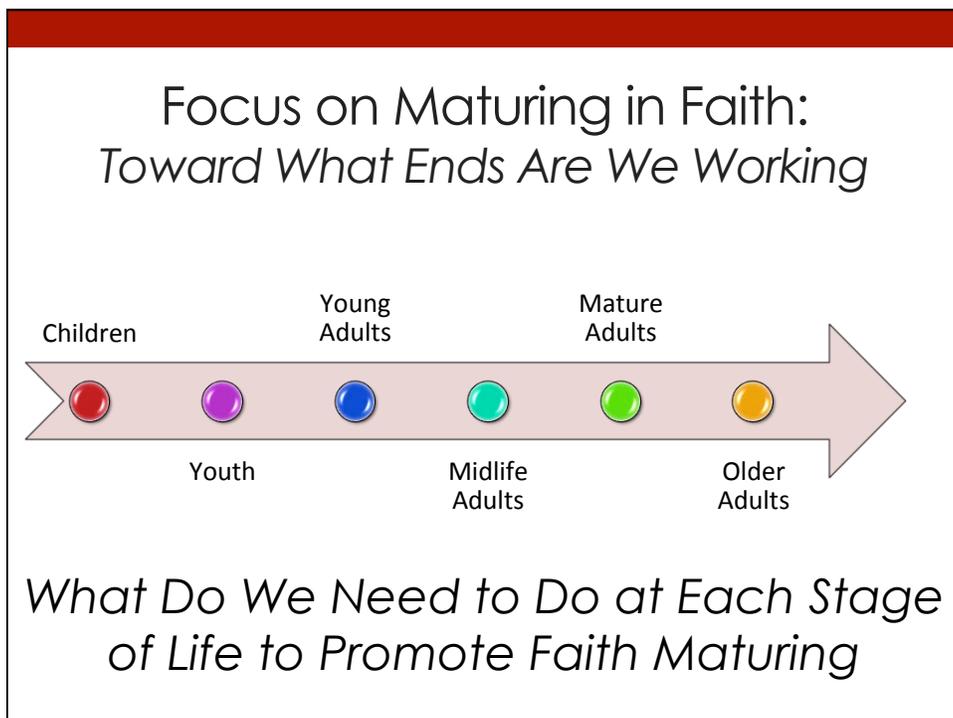
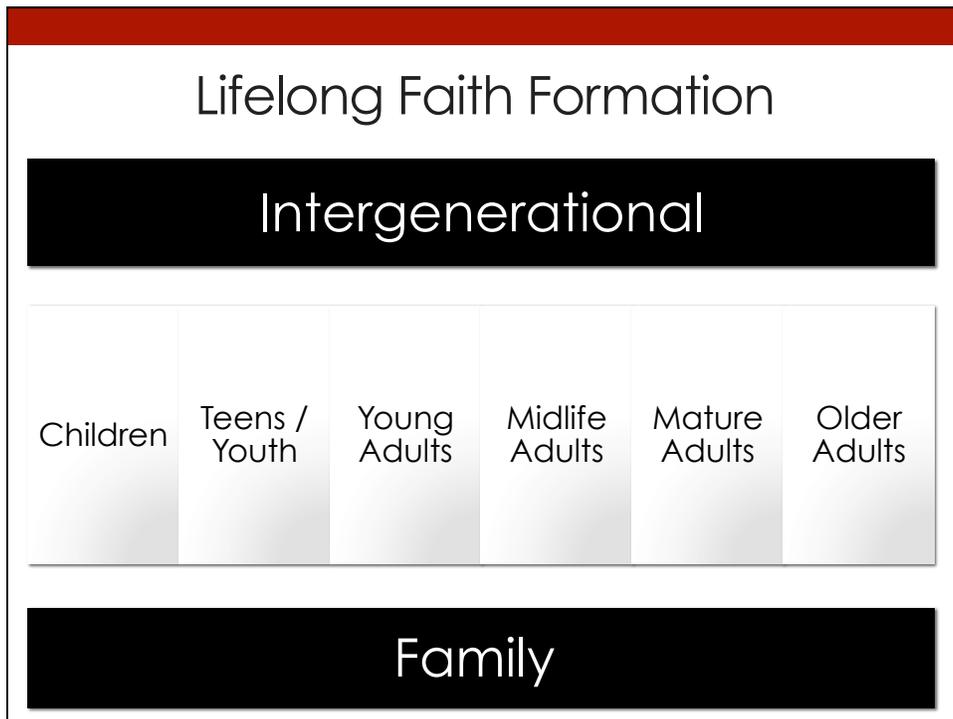
## Milestones throughout Life

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ Baptism</li> <li>✦ Anniversary of Baptism</li> <li>✦ Prayer Milestone</li> <li>✦ Welcoming Young Children to Worship</li> <li>✦ Beginning School and Church Education</li> <li>✦ First Eucharist</li> <li>✦ First Bible</li> <li>✦ Sexuality</li> <li>✦ Middle School</li> <li>✦ Confirmation</li> <li>✦ Driver's License</li> <li>✦ Mission Trip</li> <li>✦ High School Graduation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✦ College Graduation</li> <li>✦ Return from Military Deployment</li> <li>✦ New Job</li> <li>✦ New Home</li> <li>✦ Empty Nest</li> <li>✦ Marriage</li> <li>✦ Becoming a Parent</li> <li>✦ Becoming a Grandparent</li> <li>✦ Retirement</li> <li>✦ Caregiving Aging Parents</li> <li>✦ Loss of Loved Ones</li> <li>✦ Death and Funeral</li> </ul>
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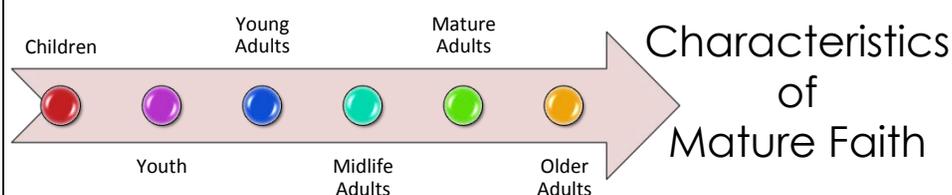


## Forming Faith: Life Stage Faith Formation

Seasons of Life	Life Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young Children</li> <li>• Older Children</li> <li>• Young Adolescents</li> <li>• Older Adolescents</li> <li>• Young Adults (20s-30s)</li> <li>• Midlife Adults (40s-mid 50s)</li> <li>• Mature Adults (mid 50s-75)</li> <li>• Older Adults (75+)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Physical &amp; Cognitive Changes</li> <li>2. Developmental Tasks</li> <li>3. Family Life Cycle</li> <li>4. Faith Development</li> <li>5. Spiritual-Religious Identities</li> <li>6. Generational Characteristics</li> </ol>



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



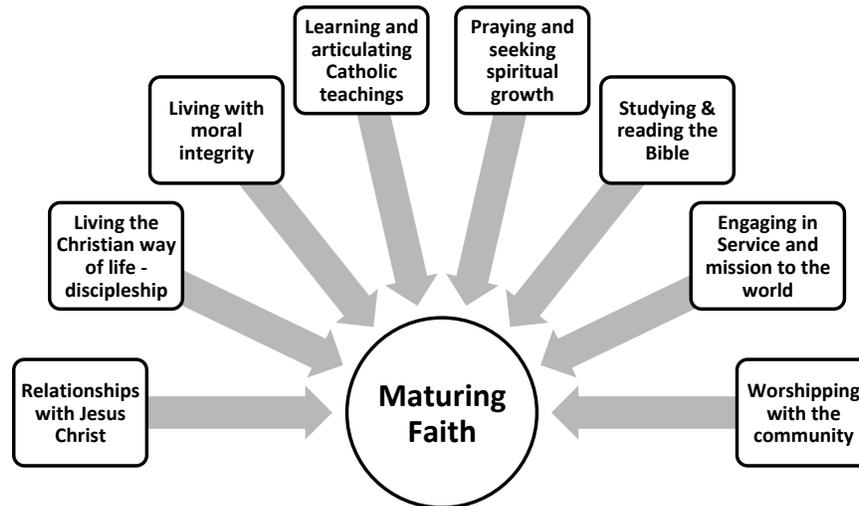
## Maturing in Faith

*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)

## Characteristics of Faith Maturing



## 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.

## 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: Holistic



## 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*)

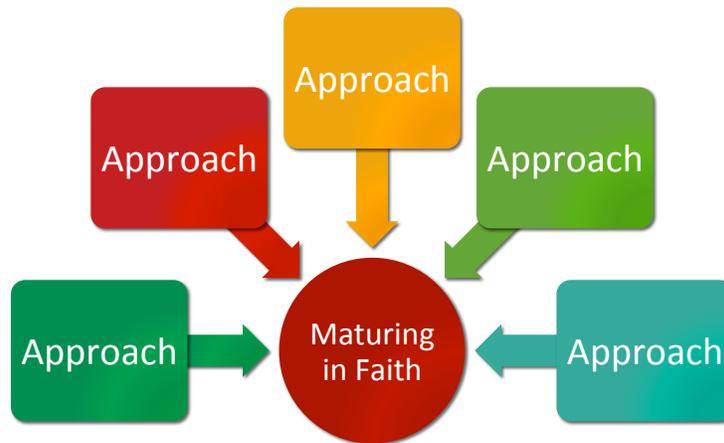
3. **Moral Formation** – Teach the moral teachings of the Church which are the fulfillment of the Commandments.
4. **Teaching to Pray** – Teach that a “climate of prayer” and participation in prayer invites individuals into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
5. **Education for Community Life** – 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.

## 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)

## Multiple Ways to Foster Faith Maturing



## Forming Faith: Missional



- ✦ Expand and extend the church's presence through *outreach*, *connection*, *relationship building*, and *engagement* with people where they live—moving faith formation out into the community.
- ✦ Provide *pathways* for people to consider or reconsider the Christian faith, to encounter Jesus and the Good News, and to live as disciples in a supportive faith community.

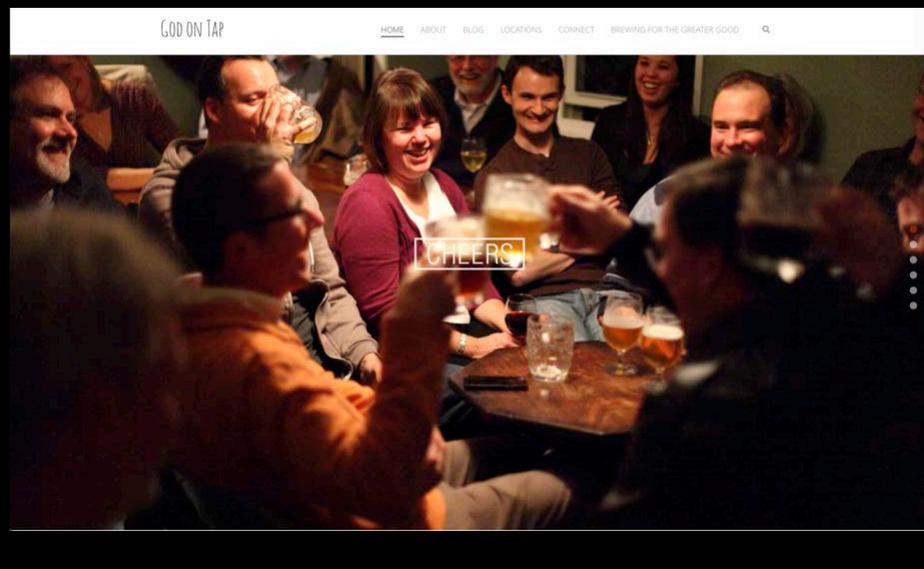
## Expand the Campus

Move off-campus, out into people's lives

- Café, homes, community centers
- Faith formation on the go: online faith formation
- Life-centered, life-issues, life-transitions faith formation
- Community events with a spiritual theme: arts, concerts, film festivals, etc.



## God on Tap



GOD ON TAP

HOME ABOUT BLOG LOCATIONS CONNECT BREWING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

## GOD ON TAP BLOG

*We post news and updates about God on Tap and discussion topics for upcoming gatherings. Feel free to leave a comment and sign up to receive new posts by email!*

### DISCUSSING CREATIVITY AT GOD ON TAP TOMORROW NIGHT!

*Join us for God on Tap tomorrow night, July 26th at 7:30pm at Forest & Main Brewing Company in Ambler. Our topic: creativity.*

When the universe seems to be sending you signals, its best to pay attention.

Lately, I've been hearing a lot about creativity—how it works, what fuels it, what inspires it, and what prevents it.

From a podcast reminding its listeners of the importance of boredom for creativity, to reading authors like Stephen King and Anne Lamott describe their writing process, to Elizabeth Gilbert's TED talk about your elusive creative genius, to a conversation just this past week with my friend like Jim Kast-Keat about how he creates great projects like his *Thirty Seconds or Less* videos. (He describes his creative process as something akin to throwing spaghetti against a wall and seeing what happens.)

Creativity. Its a common thing. We create all kinds of art, theatre, music, school lesson plans, woodworking, gardens, beer, designing, writing, business plans, you name it. We may not have created ourselves, and yet we do create and craft and shape our lives as we tend to our relationships, work, and callings.

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#### RECENT BLOG POSTS

Discussing Creativity at God on Tap Tomorrow Night!  
READ MORE

God on Tap Tomorrow Night: Mapping our Spiritual Landscapes  
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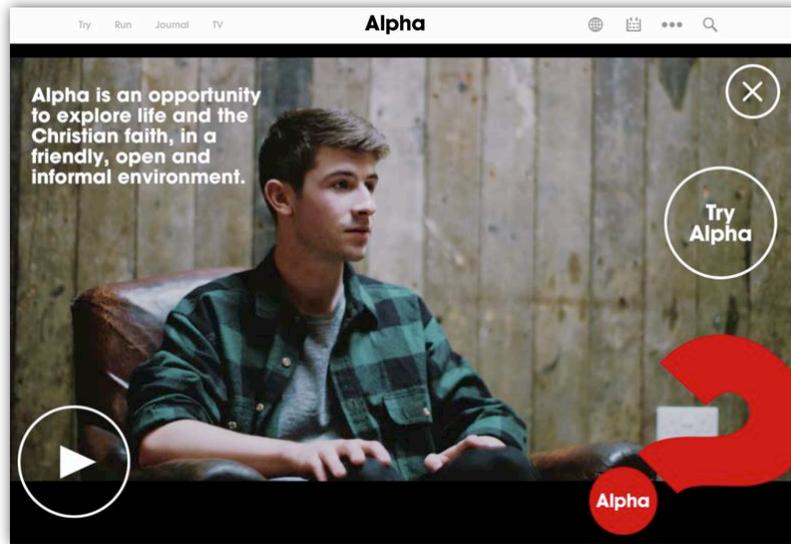
God on Tap Tonight: What do we mean by Religious Freedom anyway?  
READ MORE

dinner church collective

Centered on Jesus' Dinner Table Theology

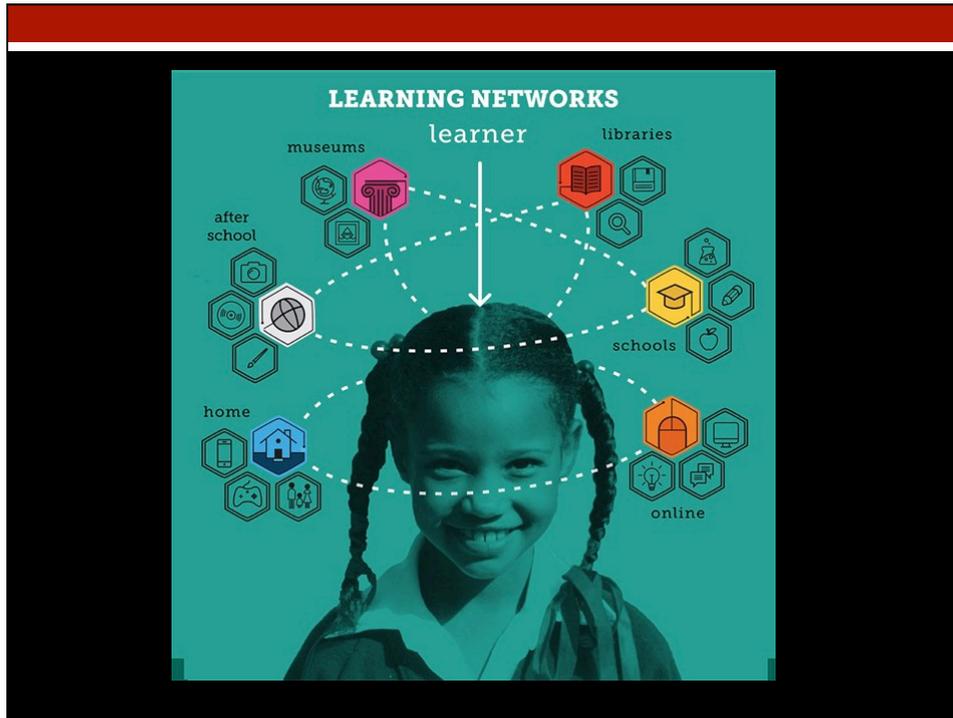
Videos - Books - Training - Coaching

## Pathway: Alpha Course



## Personalizing Faith Formation





## 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.



## Two Ways to Approach Personalizing

### **Approach One: Personalize the Pathway for People**

- ✦ Develop pathways of faith maturing
- ✦ Develop playlists of content and experiences tailored to the pathways
- ✦ Upload playlists to a digital platform

### **Approach Two: Personalize the Offerings**

- ✦ Identify important life and religious needs of target audience(s)  
OR develop a pathways model
- ✦ Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs
- ✦ Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities

## Approach 1

### **Personalize the Pathway for People**

- ✦ Develop pathways of faith maturing
- ✦ Develop playlists of content and experiences tailored to the pathways
- ✦ Upload playlists to a digital platform

Imagine Pathways for Sacraments  
Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation, RCIA

## Approach 2

### Personalize the Offerings

- ✦ Offer a variety of content, experiences, and activities tailored to different spiritual-religious identities and their needs
  1. Getting Started
  2. Growing
  3. Going Deeper
- ✦ Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs

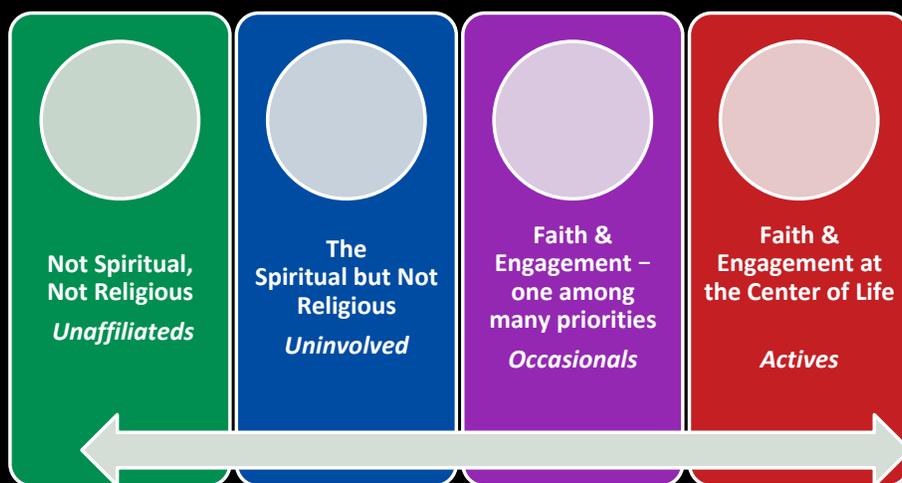
## Pathways of Faith Growth

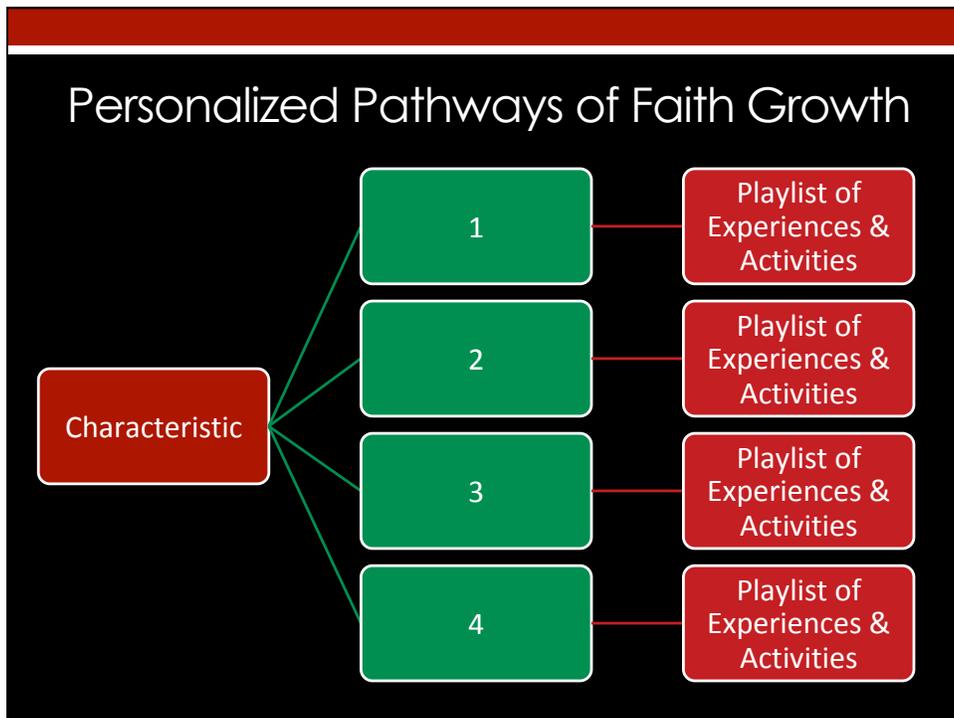
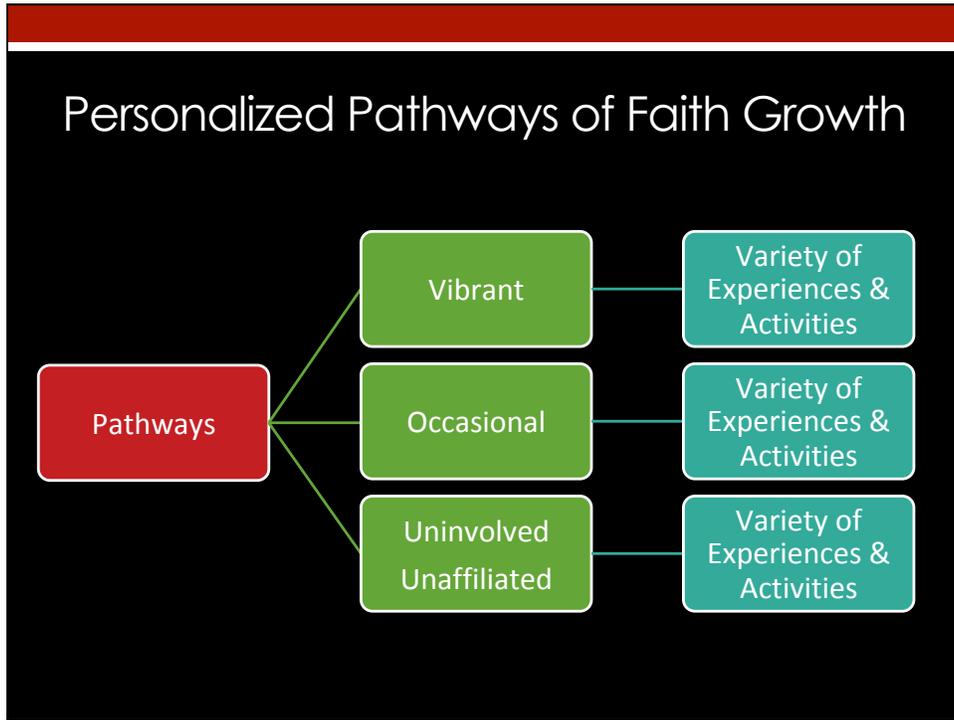


## A Pathways Model

- **A Pathway is a process** for helping people discern where they are in their faith journey and to chart a path for faith growth—to get from where they are to a closer relationship with Jesus and a deeper practice of the Christian faith.
- **A Pathway is life-centered**, reaching into every area of a person's life.
- **A Pathway is holistic** incorporating the whole person: head, heart, and hands.
- **A Pathway focuses on faith maturing.**

## A Diversity of Spiritual Religious Identities





Connecting with God		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
		<p>I am learning about daily devotions and praying to find those that I want to practice.</p> <p>I read the Bible from time to time.</p>	<p>I am practicing some spiritual devotions occasionally, including reading from the Bible.</p> <p>I am learning about STER (Scripture, Tradition, Experience, Reason).</p>	<p>I am using spiritual devotions regularly.</p> <p>I also use other resources to understand the Bible at times.</p> <p>I use STER to make decisions.</p>	<p>I am revising my spiritual practices.</p> <p>I can share with others how I connect with God through spiritual practices.</p>
Connecting with Others		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
		<p>I attend worship at least once a month.</p> <p>I say the Lord's Prayer during worship, grace before meals and prayers in the morning and/or at bedtime.</p>	<p>I attend worship on Sunday mornings at least twice a month.</p> <p>I participate in Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities).</p>	<p>I participate in worship every week unless sick or out of town.</p> <p>I share Biblical and/or Christian stories with my family/friends.</p>	<p>I provide worship leadership and/or other service on Sundays.</p> <p>I help organize Central Connect Groups (faith formation opportunities).</p>
Changing Our World with Christ's Love		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
		<p>I like to hear how my church meets the needs in the community.</p> <p>I like to hear stories from others about how they have been changed by either giving or receiving.</p> <p>I contribute with some Sunday offerings, at Christmas and Easter.</p>	<p>I commit to share my TTFG regularly.</p> <p>I help a neighbor or a charity with my TTFG occasionally.</p> <p>I share my TTFG regularly.</p> <p>I am a member of a church committee or team.</p>	<p>I make an annual commitment and give in proportion to my income.</p> <p>I share my TTFG regularly.</p> <p>I am inviting others to be a member of a church committee or team.</p>	<p>I make an annual commitment and give in proportion to my income at a time (10%) and beyond.</p> <p>I share my TTFG regularly.</p> <p>I am inviting others to be a member of a church committee or team.</p>
Faith Growth Pathway		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
		<p>I aim to accept others, including those whose color, status, etc. are different from mine.</p> <p>I go out of my way to be hospitable to members and guests in our church.</p>	<p>I listen and try to help others with their spiritual questions, joys, and concerns.</p> <p>I share my faith through personal testimony/story.</p>	<p>I invite others to worship and church events.</p> <p>I share my faith with others through invitation and witness.</p>	<p>I learn from the church about caring for others in the community.</p> <p>I help in the community in the fields of arts, academics, athletics, politics, charity, etc.</p> <p>I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith to local and political issues.</p>
Central United Methodist Church Waterford, MI		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
		<p>I attend seasonal events or special events.</p> <p>I am learning about ministry opportunities.</p>	<p>I participate in a Central Connect Group for fellowship or faith formation.</p> <p>I attend or serve at events.</p>	<p>I provide leadership for special events.</p> <p>I am open to being trained in church leadership.</p>	<p>I am a leader in a Central Connect Group.</p> <p>I am open to training others for leadership in church administration, education, etc.</p>

Central United Methodist Church Waterford, MI  
For more information, please contact  
Rev. Kathy Pittenger  
Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation  
kpittenger@waterfordcumc.org  
248.681.0040

## 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. 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. I know God has the power to transform lives and I'm open and responsive to whatever that may lead to in my life. 0 1 2 3 4 5
2. I try to do 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

### serving God

1. I invest time in building my relationships with God and with others. 0 1 2 3 4 5
2. Honor 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 giving 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

### Knowing God

We can never fully understand God (if we could, we wouldn't have much of a God). But the mysteries 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](http://www.coc.org/nextsteps) or the Connection Point in the Narthex to view a detailed listing of classes and service opportunities and to register.

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

Knowing: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Total Heart \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Designing a Pathways Model

1. Identify a target audience(s)
2. Describe their life stage & religious-spiritual characteristics.
3. Identify how/where you will use the Pathways model
  - Sacraments/milestones
  - RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
  - Gathered adult faith formation programming
  - Affinity groups
  - On-ramps where people might start the discipleship journey
4. Develop the content for the Pathways
5. Develop a ‘discernment continuum” that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth

## Designing Steps 1 & 2 Target Audience & Description

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
|                | <b>Sample Themes – Mature Adults</b>   |
| • Surveys      | 1. Dealing with retirement   |
| • Focus Groups | 2. Making life plans, finances, health   |
| • Interviews   | 3. Becoming a grandparent  |
| • Research     | 4. Making a difference in the community and world                                      |
| • Reviews      | 5. Incorporating family changes and transitions  |
|                | 6. New ways of living and relating as a married couple                                 |
|                | 7. Caring for aging parents  |
|                | 8. Taking time to read the Bible and learn more about my faith                         |
|                | 9. Growing spiritually and exploring spirituality for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of life |
|                | 10. Connecting with people my age; talking about things that matter to us              |
|                | 11. Dealing with loss  |

## Designing Step 3 - How & Where

Identify how/where you will use the Pathways model

- Sacraments/milestones
- RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
- Gathered adult faith formation programming
- Affinity groups
- On-ramps where people might start the discipleship journey

## Designing Step 4 – Content Designing Step 5 – Discernment

Develop the content for the Pathways

- Life and faith characteristics of the target audience
- Characteristics of mature faith

Develop a ‘discernment continuum’ that gives people a way to reflect on their current growth

- Inquiring--Getting Started--Making Progress--Going Deeper
- How true: 1= not true from me , 3=somewhat true for me, 5=very true for me

## Approach #2. Personalize the Offerings



### The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation

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

## Personalize

- ✓ For Life Stage Needs
- ✓ For Spiritual-Religious Identity
- ✓ For Interests
- ✓ For Time People Have for Activities

## Playlists for Faith Formation



## 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.

## Curating Playlists

- ✦ Books
- ✦ Audio / Podcasts
- ✦ Video and movies
- ✦ Apps and digital programming
- ✦ Website content and activities
- ✦ Courses, programs, workshops at church and online
- ✦ Church life, ministries, and events
- ✦ Small groups at church, home, community settings
- ✦ Art, drama, music
- ✦ Service and action projects, mission trips
- ✦ Retreats
- ✦ Field trips
- ✦ Mentoring

## 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**



## 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

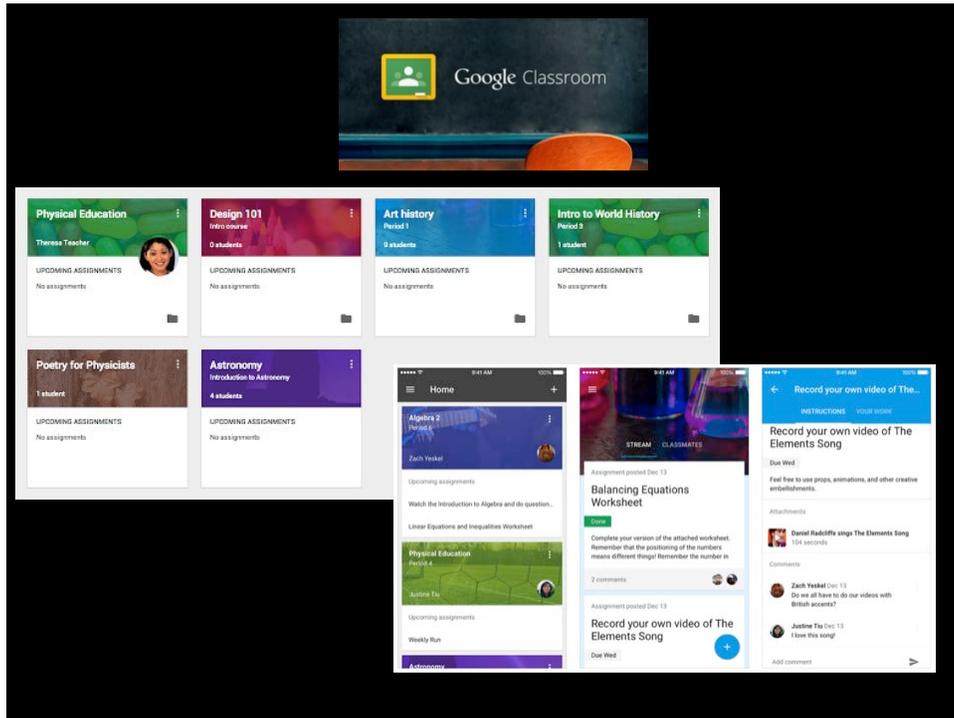
If you were to use a Playlist approach for confirmation...

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?

## What is Edmodo?

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

The screenshot displays the Edmodo website interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the Edmodo logo and navigation links: Search, Calendar, Grades, Library, Home, Profile, and Account. Below the header, the main content area is titled "By Me" and features a "Post" form with options for Note, Alert, Assignment, Quiz, and Poll. 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 "Notifications" (1 New Direct Post), "Send Invitations", and "Suggestions".



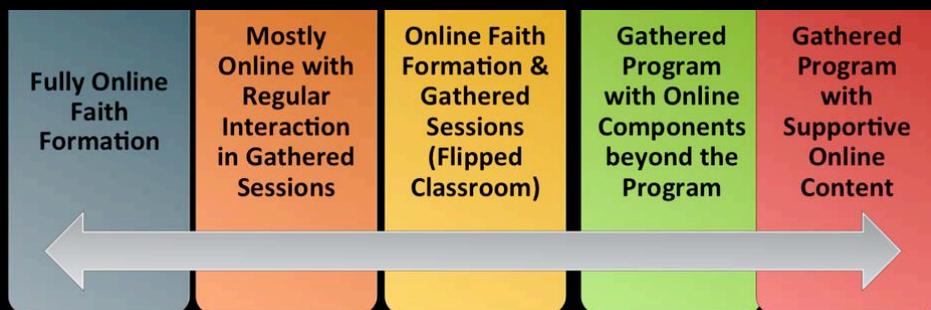
## Digital Faith Formation Strategies

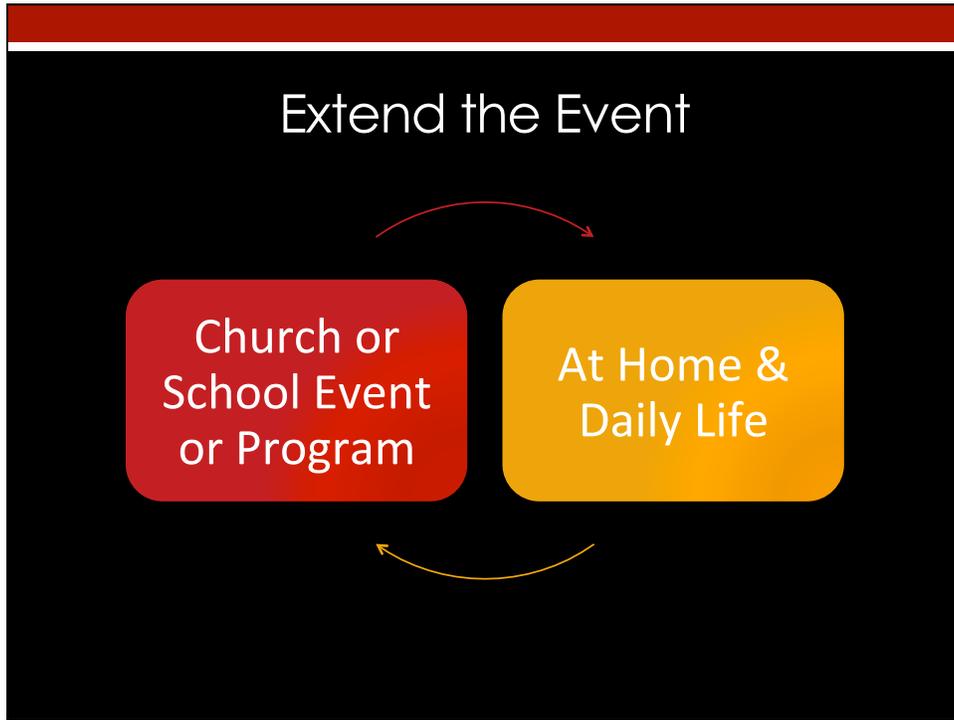


## Digital Faith Formation Strategies

1. Extend a church event or program
2. Design one event or program, offer it in multiple platforms
3. Prepare for and follow-up an an event or experience
4. Flip a gathered program
5. Integrate online and gathered
6. Create online only experiences
7. Use webinars, Facebook live, podcasts, etc. to deliver programming directly to people

## Digitally Enabled & Digitally Connected Faith Formation





## 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 Devotions

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 seconds 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.

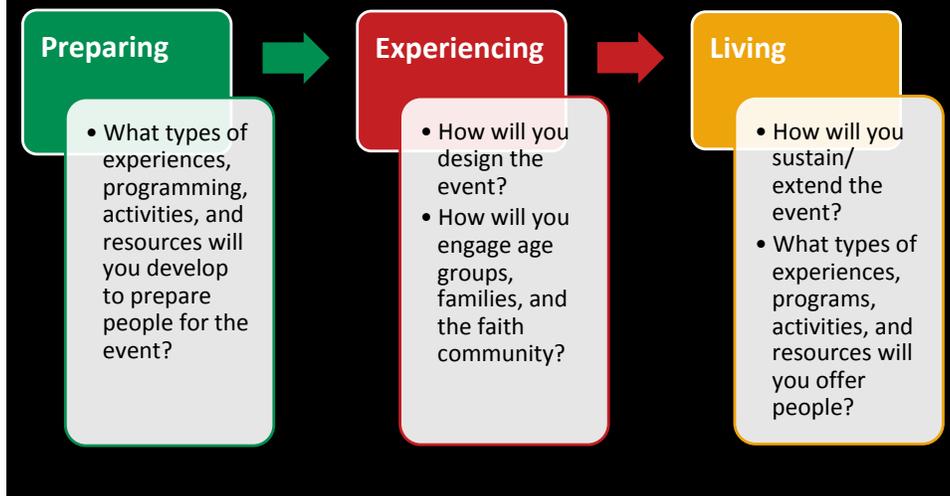
Subscribe to Between Sundays Free!

Events | The Five Practices | Weekly Video for Your Website

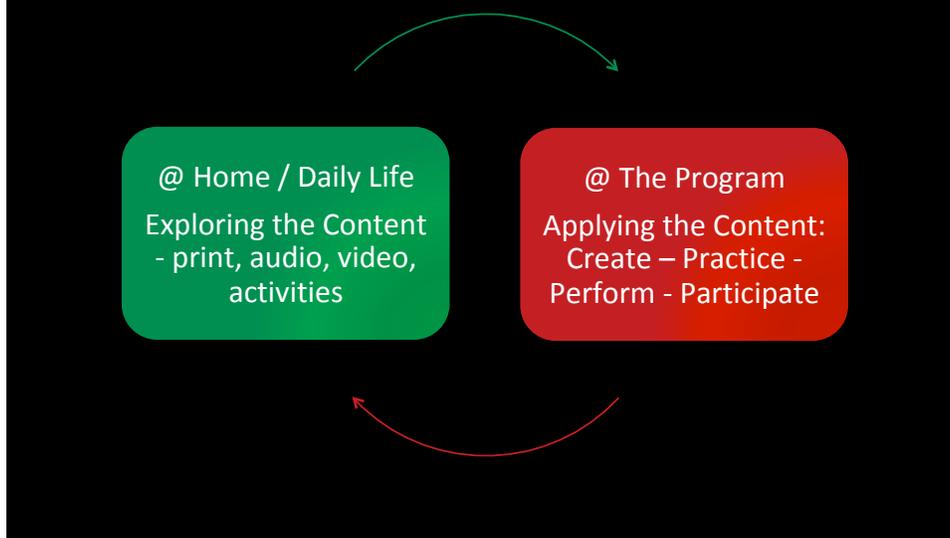
Events from The Five Loaves | The Five Practices of Christian Discipleship | In Site™ Weekly Gospel Reflection on your parish website



## Build on an Event/Experience



## Flip the Model



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

**LEARNING**  
login

**PROGRAM**  
requirements

**SERVICE**  
projects

**Confirmation 1**  
Calendar of Dates

Today	1 2 3 4
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	

**Confirmation 2**  
Calendar of Dates

Today	1 2 3 4
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	

**Insights**  
Calendar of Events

Today	1 2 3 4
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

The Catechism is broken into four sections. It starts with the Creed, which is the backbone, the skeleton of the deposit of faith. Then we have the Sacraments, the nervous system, the way that we experience God. Add to that Morality, the muscles we need to be strong enough to live a holy life. But it all comes together in Prayer, the life blood we need to have a relationship with God.

Put them all together, and we have a living person Jesus Christ, the image of the invisible God and the goal of all catechesis. The more we know about Him, the more we're able to love Him and be like Him.

**June 2016 - Beginning of Holiness**  
Blessed Mother Teresa's insights on prayer and how it connects us with God are put to simple but beautiful graphics that will inspire.  
[Click here to download wmv video](#)  
[Click here to download mov video](#)

**July 2016 - The Green Rubber Band**  
Lesley tells the story of her total surrender to God for the most unusual reason at the most unsuspecting time.  
[Click here to download wmv video](#)  
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**August 2016 - Prayer**  
Bears from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia talk about prayer.  
[Click here to download wmv video](#)  
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**Adam in the Desert - Episode 1**  
**Adam in the Desert - Episode 2**  
**Adam in the Desert - Episode 3**

## Christian Initiation & New Member Formation

**Intro to The Basics of Christianity**  
by Pastor Bill Crabtree of Silverdale Lutheran Church

Flip Christian Initiation

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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:

**Mondays** What: **#BreakingBread** (Dinner Church)  
Where: 4 E University Pkwy Bmore, MD 212  
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



**#SlateSpeak 101**

- #SlateSpeak, a progressive Christian forum where faith and everyday life meet in an explosion of awesome conversation.
- You can follow the #SlateSpeak conversation using [tweetchat.com/bookdiscuss](#) or [tweetchat.com](#) to enhance your experience.
- We do not substantially agree with everything that we read. #SlateSpeak is a safe space for critiques & challenges.
- We do not shame or blame each other here. We make respect each other's experiences and hold space for each other's truths.
- It is totally acceptable to follow along silently, but feel free to engage if when you feel comfortable.
- If you have a question, feel free to ask it! We are a friendly bunch.

**Victoria**  
@vihoppes

Wow. That last hour was awesome. Thanks #slatespeak for a great chat



**#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!



**#BreakingBread**

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

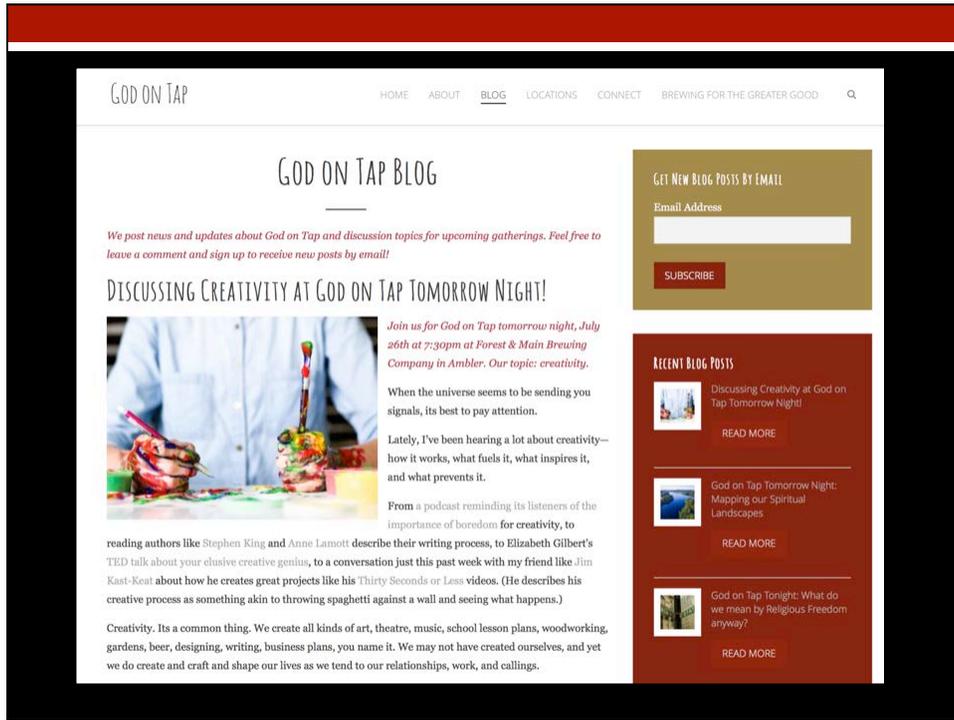
Starting at 6pm, everyone is invited to participate in transforming our "borrowed space (graciously offered to us by the [Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation and Diocese of Maryland](#)) into an intimate dinner setting for thirty or so people.

# Integrate Online and Gathered

GOD ON TAP

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## Online 40-Day Lent Curriculum

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

# Advent or Lent Online "Curriculum"

**Welcome to Advent**



## LIKE THE ADVENT WREATH

(to count down the days)

**Advent Activities**

**Advent Wreath:** Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of advent. Usually, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. Go to [Shining of Advent Wreaths](#).

**Advent Candles:** Decorate a set of Advent candles for your family to use during this season of hope, peace, love, and joy. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

**Alternative Advent:** Kids create an alternative advent calendar to benefit a charitable organization in their town. Instead of just opening doors on an Advent calendar or receiving Santa from one slot to the next, use Advent as a time to collect donations or goods for a local charitable organization. Go to [Vibrant Faith at Home](#).

**Jesse Tree:** The Jesse Tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse Tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophecies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse Tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history. Go to [Jesse Tree online](#).

**Advent Daily Devotional**



[2017\\_advent\\_devotional.pdf](#)  
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**Family Advent Calendar (English & Spanish)**



[advent-calendar-2017-family-english.pdf](#)  
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[advent-children-calendar.pdf](#)  
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[advent-children-calendar-spanish.pdf](#)  
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**Children's Advent Calendar**

**Best Advent Ever - Daily Reflections:** Starting December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life, and personal stories from Dynamic Catholic team members. Go to [Best Advent Ever](#).

**Sacred Advent Daily Reflections:** Embrace the Advent season as a sacred space from the ease of your e-mail inbox. Sacred Advent is a daily e-mail prayer break during a busy season. Each day invites you to a step-by-step progression of praying with a Scripture reading and related points of reflection. The messages also include suggestions for further exploration of Advent themes through additional online articles and prayers. Go to [Sacred Advent](#).

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- Biblical Literacy Series**
- Catholic Faith and Tradition for Teachers**
- Christian Communities and Ethical Discernment**
- Core Course: Intro to the Catholic Faith**
- St. Ignace de Loyola: Discerning a Calling**
- International Church Foundations/Practices**
- Intro to the New Testament**
- Liturgical Guide for the Priesthood**
- SCM: Can We Get the Bix Right?**
- Women and Collaboration in the U.S.**
- Youth Ministry 101**

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Step-by-step instructions from well-known spiritual teachers on practices from the world's religions. Includes lessons, audio, video, reflections.
- Retreats on Sacred Texts**  
15 e-courses  
Paraphrase from sacred texts and commentaries by our teachers on living the wisdom from the Psalms, the Gospels, the Palm, the Gospel, A Course in Miracles, the Qur'an, the Tao Te Ching, and more.
- Elder Spirituality E-Courses**  
16 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**  
20 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**  
16 e-courses  
40-part programs using book excerpts and practice suggestions to show how to be spiritual at home, at work, in nature, during times with children, and more.
- Practicing Spirituality: Master Teachers**  
20 e-courses  
40-part programs using excerpts from the writings of spiritual masters as the starting point for a variety of creative spiritual practices.

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**SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY**  
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**Online Learning**

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**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**  
introduction Bible with Bill Thane, Phillip Tisdale, and Rachel Todd Davis  
introduction Bible with Paula Bode-Welber and Jon Menden  
introduction Bible with William Willison and Jay Walker  
introduction Practices with Brian McGuire and Lisa Miles  
introduction Practices with Mike Staugler and Phillip Tisdale  
introduction Practices with Steve Callahan, Steve Olson, and Dong Pagan  
Approaching Scripture with Vicki Conroy  
Getting Most Out of the Bible with Judith Kelly  
Introduction to the Bible with Nancy Sublette  
Introducing the Psalms with Isaac Deenit  
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# Online Prayer

# Webinar Live Presentation

## Upper Dublin Lutheran Church

**Teens and Digital Media: Our First Facebook Live Event!**

Join us for our first Facebook Live event from the comfort of home or while you're out and about on your smartphone as Pastor Keith is joined by Bethany Stolle, who will present on what parents need to know about teens and digital media. Tune into the [UDLC Facebook page](#) at 8pm Eastern Time on November 6th to watch and share your ideas and questions. This is open to everyone. Please forward this email or share our [Facebook event](#) with a friend! - Keith

**Program Description**

The mall. Public parks. Friends' houses. The lunch room. The physical spaces that were central to socialization, extracurricular learning, and identity formation for many of us have increasingly shifted to digital spaces. And there are implications for parents, teachers, ministry leaders and anyone else who works with young people. This workshop will explore digital media trends among kids and teens, the diversity of experiences when it comes to youth and social media, how adolescents are working out their identities through "networked publics," and considerations for faith formation with a tech-connected generation.

## 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

## New Leadership Roles

- ✦ We are becoming *learning architects* who design and/or identify environments which can become settings for faith formation, e.g., homes, workplaces, coffee shops, online communities, and more. We can design content and experiences to “deliver” to that setting.
- ✦ We are becoming *designers of digital platforms* (websites, social media) where people can connect with each other, access content, engage in learning activities, and more. These platforms provide 24x7 faith formation.
- ✦ We are becoming *curators* of religious content and experiences. When there is an abundance of content, our role shifts from creator to curator. Curators are engaged in finding and identifying high quality content in all formats, matching it with the needs of people, providing the content on a digital platform (and often in gathered settings), and engaging people with the content.