



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



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## 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*

## Workshop 1

- Part One: Transformations Affecting the Future of Faith Formation
- Part Two: Insights from Research
- Part Three: Reimagining Faith Formation
- Intergenerational
  - Family
  - Life Stage
  - Missional
  - Digital
- Part Four: Lifelong Faith Formation Plan

# 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 mentoring. Organize 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 (5). Items that receive a rating of 4 or 5 indicate areas of strength. Items that receive a 1-3 indicate an area for growth. Compile the results for all of the assessment tools into one report. Analyze the results and create the items that are in need of attention and development (score of 1 or 2) and items that your congregation wants to strengthen even if it received a score of 3-5 (4).

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

	Practice	Score
1. <b>God's Living Presence</b> People experience God's living presence in community, at worship, through study, and in service.	1 2 3 4 5	
2. <b>Discipleship</b> People learn who God is and come to know Jesus Christ personally, learn how to be Christians, and how to discern the meaning of the Bible for their lives.	1 2 3 4 5	
3. <b>Community</b> People experience a life-giving spiritual community of faith, hope, and love, characterized by brotherly, sisterly, and parental love, and support.	1 2 3 4 5	
4. <b>Worship</b> People experience spiritually uplifting worship experiences that are compelling, nurturing, inspiring, meaningful, and relevant to their lives.	1 2 3 4 5	
5. <b>Sacramental Experiences</b> People experience the story of faith through the celebration of the Eucharist and seasons of the church year.	1 2 3 4 5	
6. <b>Means and Methods</b> People experience God's love through music, sacraments, and ministries that address significant aspects of God's life and faith journey.	1 2 3 4 5	
7. <b>Prayer</b> People experience the presence of God as individuals and community through prayer and spiritual disciplines/practices.	1 2 3 4 5	
8. <b>Learning</b> People grow in faith understanding by learning the content of the Christian tradition, including using that content, engaging in their lives, and being life-giving in the world.	1 2 3 4 5	
9. <b>Moral Responsibility</b> People develop ethical/moral responsibility, making good choices, participating in moral questions, and how to apply their faith to decisions about what's right and wrong.	1 2 3 4 5	
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.	1 2 3 4 5	
11. <b>Intergenerational Relationships</b> People develop intergenerational relationships and continuity across the Christian faith's shared, modeled, and lived.	1 2 3 4 5	
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.	1 2 3 4 5	
13. <b>Digital Presence</b> People are able to learn and discipleship through online faith forming content and social connections on the congregation's website which provide content and experiences to extend participation in congregational life and resources into daily life.	1 2 3 4 5	

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	Middle 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. Transformations



## 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

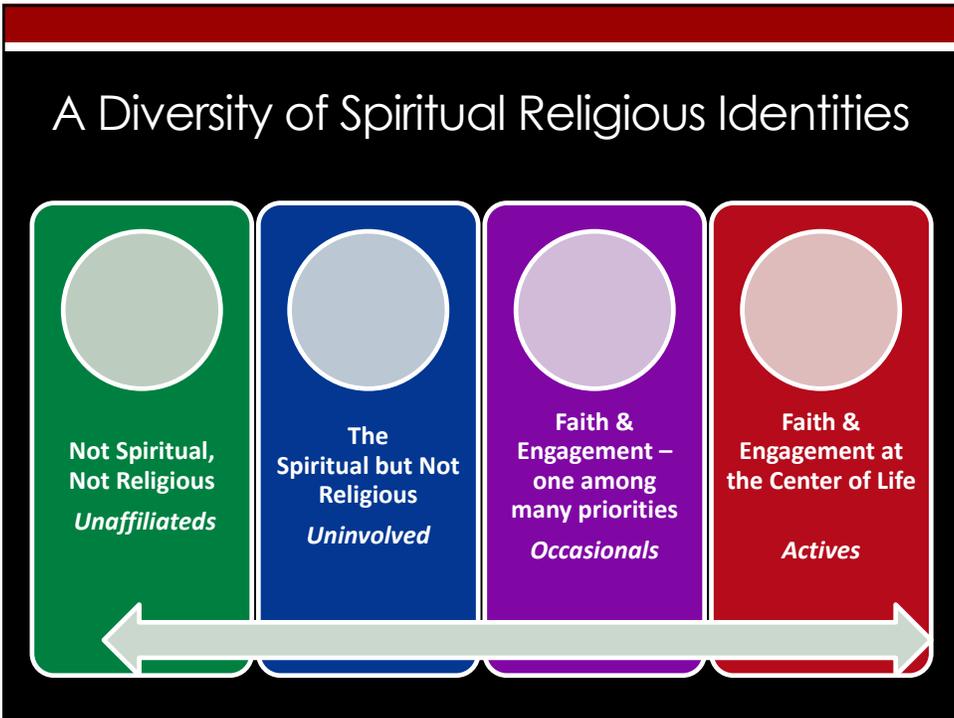
## Contemporary Family Forms



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

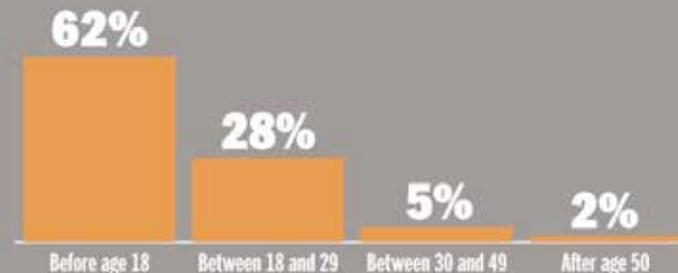
Parents and families reflect an increasing diversity in religious beliefs, practices, and affiliation.

- ✓ 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

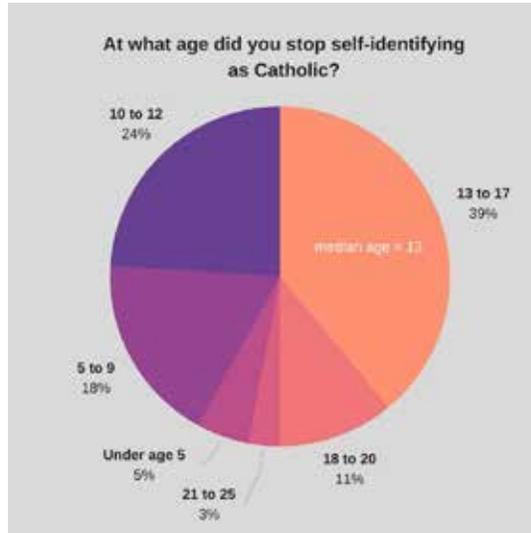
Percentage of religiously unaffiliated Americans raised in a faith group who said they abandoned religious practice at the following time



SOURCE: Public Religion Research Institute

DESERET NEWS GRAPHIC

# Spiritual-Religious Diversity



# Decline in Religious Socialization & Practice



# Digital Transformation



# The Print Era (1500s - )



## Technological Revolution: The Multimedia Era (1960s - )



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





## 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

## Educational Transformation

WHOEVER YOU ARE  
WHEREVER YOU ARE

You only have to  
know one thing:  
#YouCanLearnAnything



# 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.



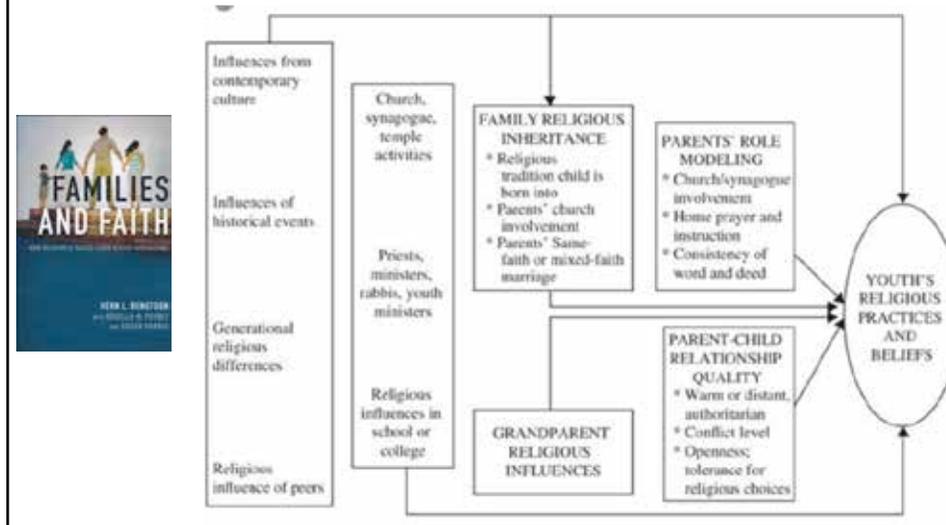
## The Adaptive Challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Faith Formation

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
7. Educational transformation

## Part 2. Insights from Research about Faith Formation



## Intergenerational Religious Transmission

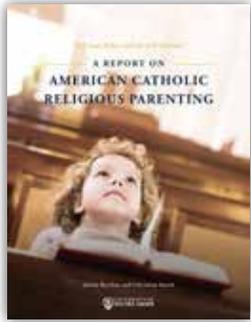


## Family Religious Transmission



- ✦ 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

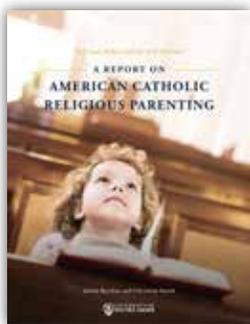
## Family Religious Transmission



*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.*

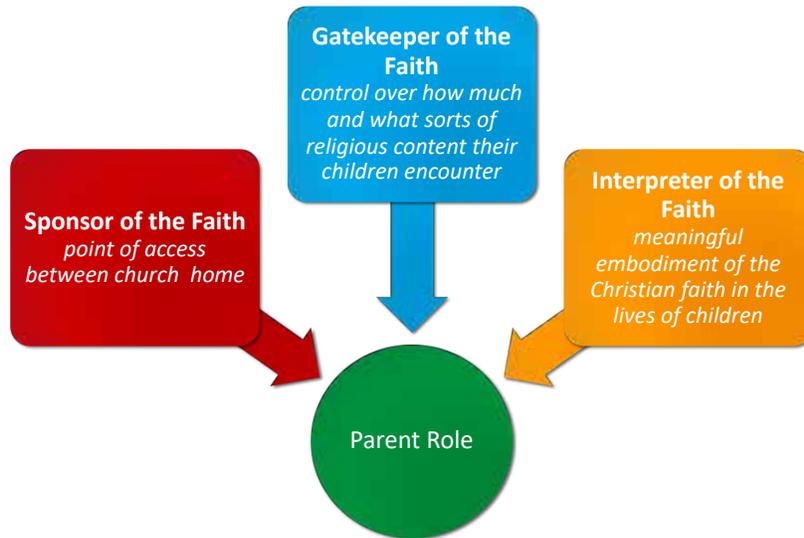
(Burtkus and Smith)

## 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

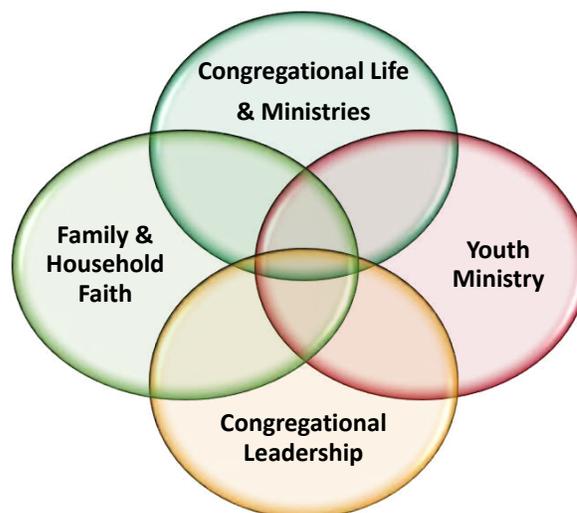
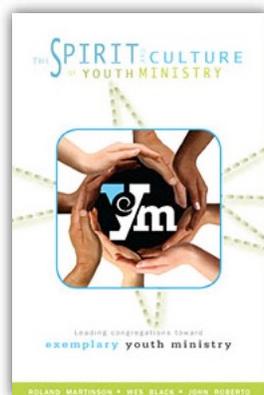
“Effective religious socialization comes about through embedded practices; that is, through specific, deliberate religious activities that are firmly intertwined with the daily habits of family routines, of eating and sleeping, of having conversations, of adorning spaces in which people live, of celebrating 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.”

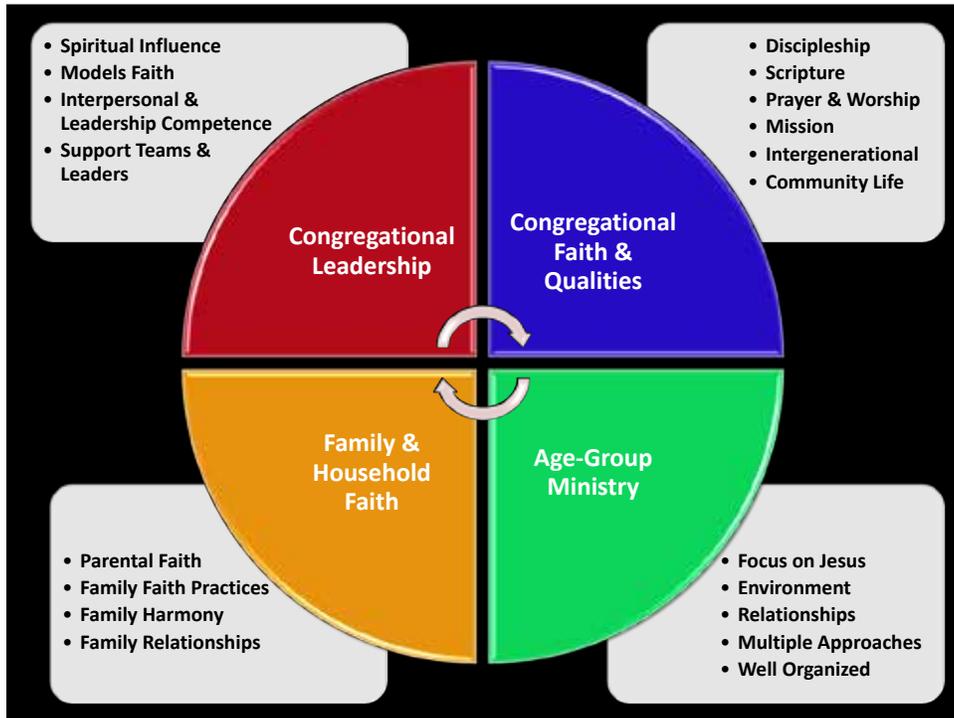
*(Robert Wuthnow, Growing Up Religious).*

## Family Religious Transmission

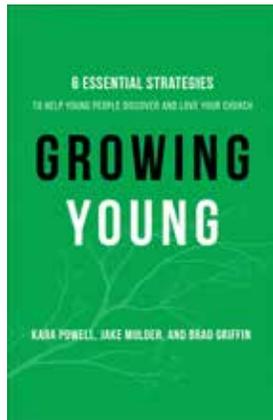
1. Parents' personal faith and practice
2. Parent-child relationship: close, warm
3. Parents' modeling and teaching a religious faith
4. Parents' involvement in church life and Sunday worship
5. Grandparents' religious influence & relationship
6. Religious tradition a child is born into
7. Parents of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

## Exemplary Youth Ministry Study





## Growing Young Study

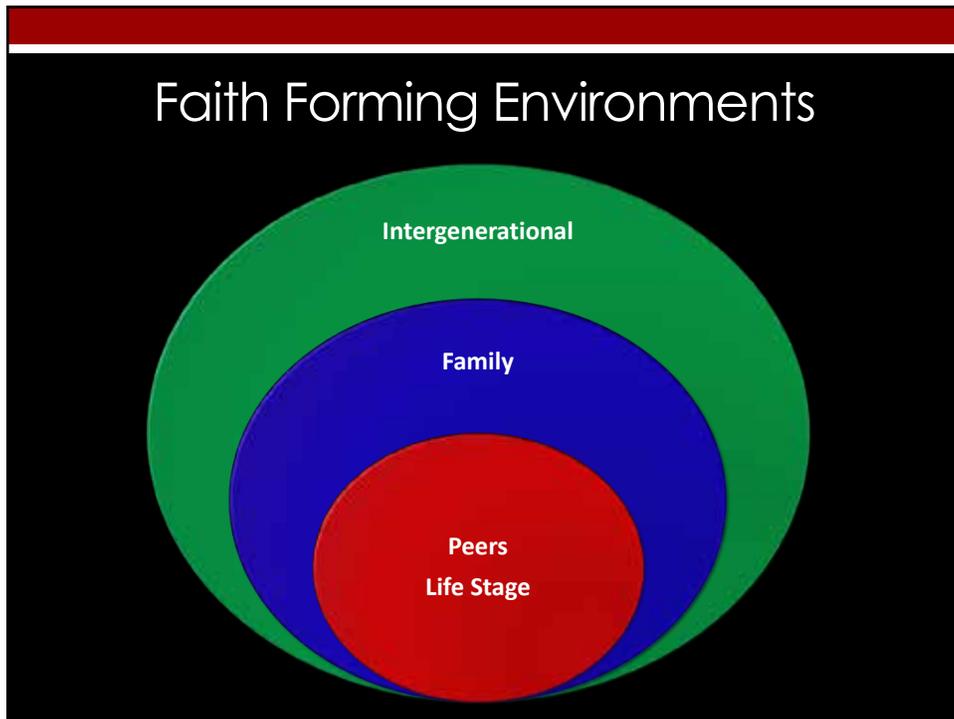
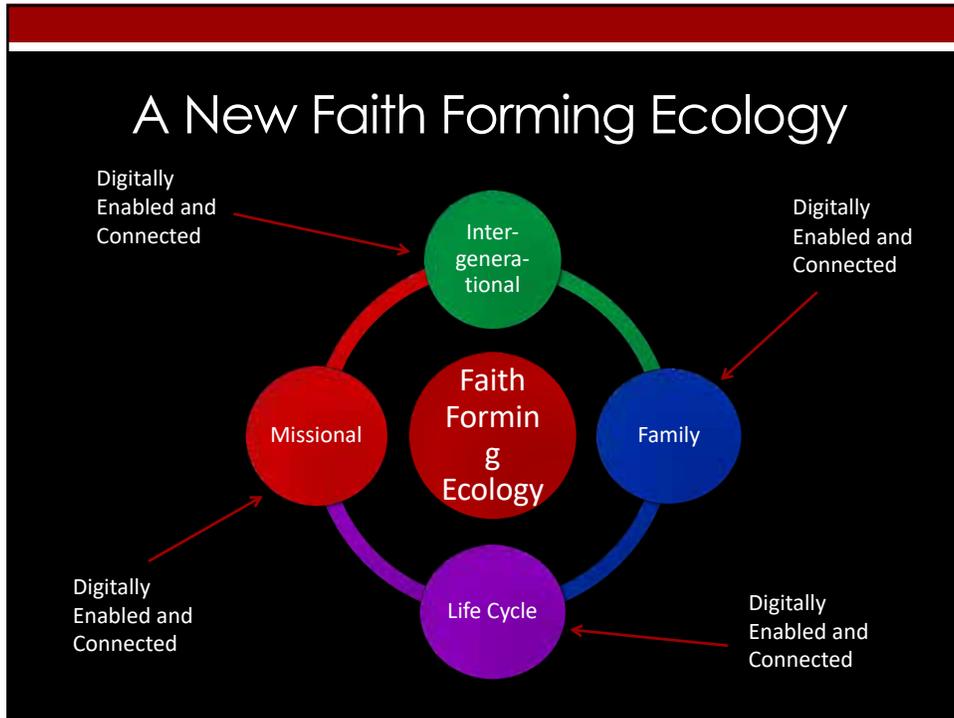


## Growing Young Study

- ❖ **Empathize with Today's Young People** as they grapple with existential questions of identity, belonging, and purpose
- ❖ **Take Jesus' Message Seriously:** Jesus reigns over poor theology and his words ring true for young sojourners hungry for life-giving direction.
- ❖ **Fuel a Warm Community:** welcoming, belonging, accepting, hospitable, and caring.
- ❖ **Prioritize Young People (and Families) Everywhere:** Involving young people in every ministry has allowed these churches to thrive with authenticity and intergenerational relationships.
- ❖ **Be the Best Neighbors:** opportunities to serve others, pursue social justice, find their calling, interact with popular culture.

## Part 3. Reimagining Faith Formation





## Maturing in Faith



## 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: *Toward What Ends Are We Working*

Children      Young Adults      Mature Adults

Youth      Midlife Adults      Older Adults

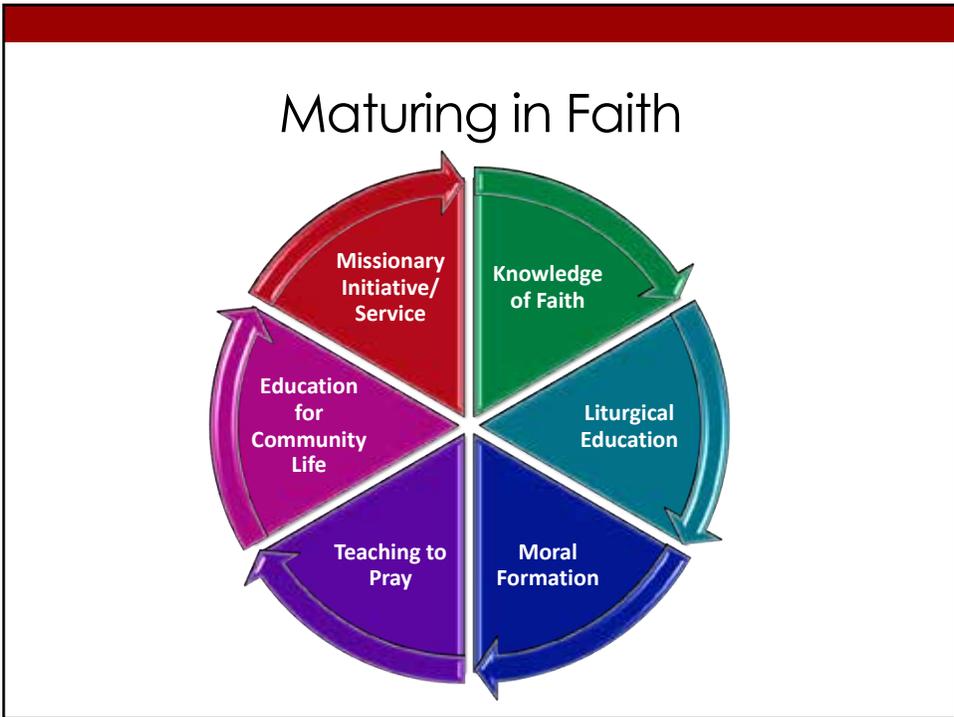
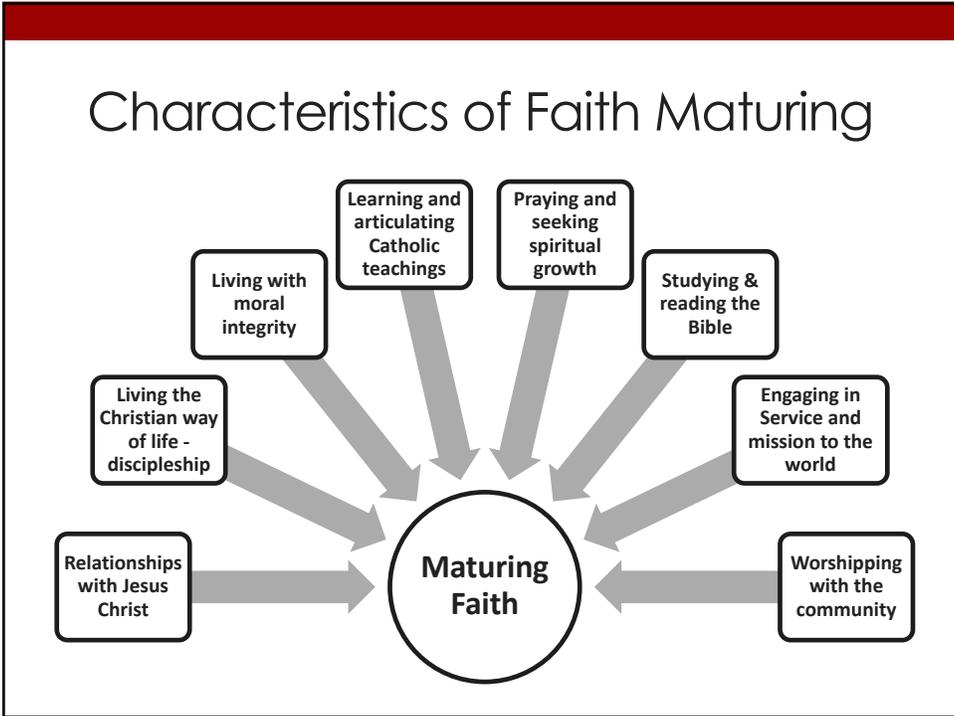
*What Do We Need to Do at Each Stage of Life to Promote Faith Maturing*

### Maturing in Faith: *Toward What Ends Are We Working*

Children      Young Adults      Mature Adults

Youth      Midlife Adults      Older Adults

Characteristics of Mature Faith



## Maturing in Faith

*(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

*(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

- ✦ ***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)

## Lifelong Faith Formation

### Intergenerational

Children

Teens /  
Youth

Young  
Adults

Midlife  
Adults

Mature  
Adults

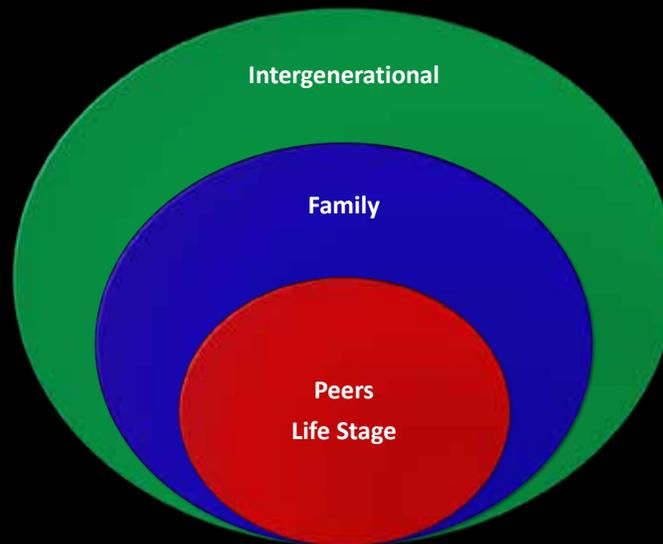
Older  
Adults

Family

# Lifelong Faith Formation Plan

Faith Formation Forum	Activity/Session	Dates and Times	Location
HI-life Gatherings for all ages and generations	Intergenerational learning events with breakout sessions (6X year)	Sunday, 1:00-3:30 pm OR Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 5:30-8:00 pm	Church, FH, HR, MRS OR offsite
Roman Missal Workshops	Six week series with presentations / discussions	Mondays, 7:00-8:30 pm (Fall 2011)	FH, HR, CH
"Live Jesus" Retreats	Presentations by parish team / reflection	Select weekends Friday evenings and Saturday	PCLR, HR
Little Rock Scripture Study	Infancy Narratives (Advent) Gospel of John (January - April)	Monday 7:00-8:30 pm Wednesday 9:30-11:00 am	FH, HR, MRS
Men's Spirituality Group	Faith sharing / discussion group	Monthly, Third Thursday 7:00-8:30 pm	JDC Room
Women's Spirituality Groups	Faith sharing / discussion groups	Monthly, Date varies	JDC Room Offsite
JustFaith Course	Two 30-week study groups	Weekly Tuesday evenings OR Weekly Thursday mornings	PCLR JDC Room
Theology Course - topic TBD	Six week series with presentations / discussions	Tuesday, 7:00-9:00 pm (Summer 2012)	HR
Spiritual Book Club	Related books	Monthly, morning or evening	HR offsite
Young Adults	Discussion / faith sharing group	HI-life Gatherings, Monthly Sunday afternoon	offsite
TYM - Total Youth Ministry (grades 9-12)	Catechesis, social & service activities	HI-life Gatherings, weekly on Sunday, 6:30-8:30 pm	FH, HR, MRS
JYM - Junior Youth Ministry (grades 5-8)	Catechesis, social & service activities	HI-life Gatherings, weekly on Sunday, 6:30-8:00 pm	FH, HR, MRS
Children's Faith Development (grades Pre-k-4)	Age appropriate catechesis	HI-life Gatherings, weekly on Sunday, 9:40-10:40 am	MRS
Liturgy of the Word with Children	Lectionary	Weekly Sunday during the Liturgy	MR 2
Baptism Preparation	Workshops for parents (and godparents)	Saturday 9:00-11:30 am Offered every other month	FH, HR, Church
First Reconciliation / First Eucharist Preparation	Workshops for children and parents	Monthly family sessions, home preparation	FH, HR, Church
Confirmation Preparation	Workshops for candidates (and sometimes sponsors)	HI-life Gatherings, TYM, Confirmation II sessions	FH, HR, Church
RCIA	Lectionary & related topics	Inquiry, Catechumenate, P & E, Mystagogy	PCLR
Landings	Selected topics	Modular Weekly sessions Tuesday 7:00-8:30 pm	JDC Room

# Faith Forming Environments



## 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)

## Forming Faith: Intergenerational



## Worship & Lifelong Faith Formation



### Worship Theme

- Readings
- Homily/Sermon
- Podcast

### Family Youth Adults

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

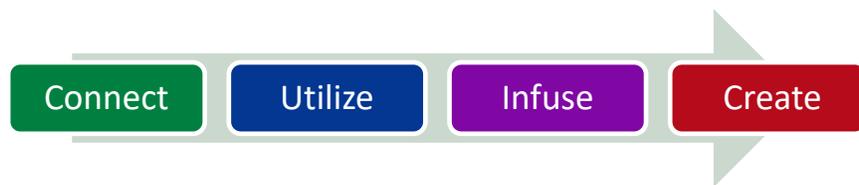
## A Whole Church Curriculum



*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

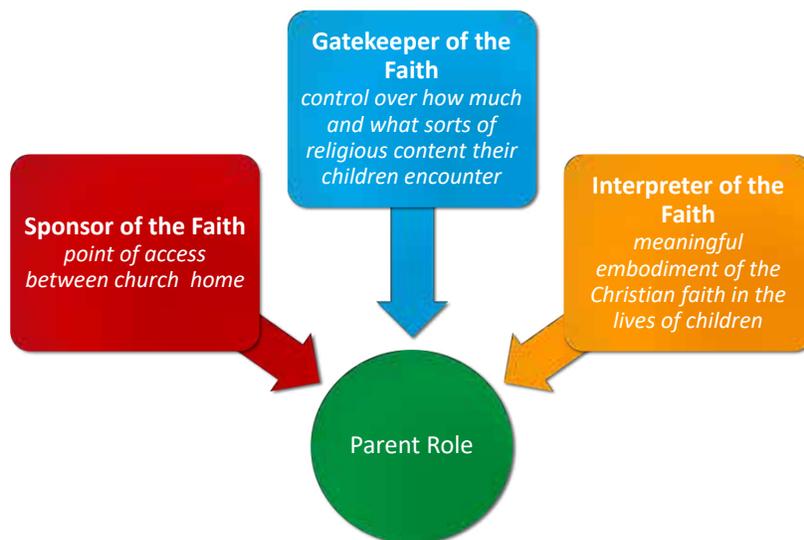


## Forming Faith: Family

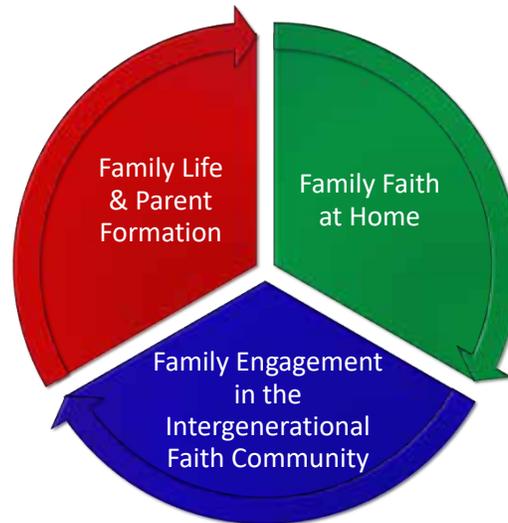


- ✦ Primary Influence on transmission of religious faith and practice: Parents & Family
- ✦ Day-to-day religious practices of the family and the ways parents model their faith and share it in conversation, collaboration, and exposure to outside religious opportunities
- ✦ Secondary Influence: The Congregation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

## Parental Influence



## Family Faith Formation



## Family Faith Formation



### **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 Plan



### Family Faith @ Home

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

### Intergenerational Faith Community

- ✓ Seasonal Events
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- ✓ Intergenerational Connections & Experiences

### Family Life & Parent/Grandparent Formation

- ✓ Strong Family Life
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## 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





### 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: Pentecost Festival
7. July: Independence Day
8. August: Back to School
9. September: Fall Harvest
10. October: A Helping Hand
11. November: Thanksgiving
12. December: Christmas in Camelot!

**January: Seeing Others**

Observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service held on the third Monday of January with your family. Start the faith and best of people seeking help from emergency shelters, food banks and parish-based agencies.

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

**February: Praying through Lent**

Each year children's evangelism has been the cause of the 40 days of Lent for fasting a big fish and praying together every night in bed.

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

[Join a Prayerful Lenten Journey](#)

**March: The Real Patrick**

St. Patrick is not a real person. Born in Britain in the year 387 C. E. He was not a saint, then celebrating a party in Ireland. He brought many people to faith at a time when many had turned away from the faith.

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

**April: New Life**

The popular custom of coloring Easter egg comes from an ancient Christian practice of dyeing, trading, and hiding eggs. In an Easter celebration, instead of randomly coloring eggs, children draw and paint their own eggs for one another.

### Rituals & Milestones

*celebrate meaningful, memorable moments in your family*

**Baptism Anniversary**

Start each year by reliving the story of their baptism day to celebrate their growth in Christ and embrace their commitment with God as their Father and Creator. An In Word, Faith at Home for the Immersion and Sacraments.



**Starting School**

Bring your preschool or kindergarten or first grade for the first time to an exciting milestone for children and their families. An children prepare to enter and Christ Jesus and begin a new chapter in their lives. Their great promise to be with their family. Together, the family will create a special memory of your child's first day in school. An In Word, Faith at Home for the Immersion and Sacraments.



**Getting Ready to Worship**

Getting out the door to make it to worship on time can be a tough experience for parents and children. Church is preparation that help your family get ready to worship at your church, whether on Sunday morning, Wednesday night, or during the week. An In Word, Faith at Home for the Immersion and Sacraments.

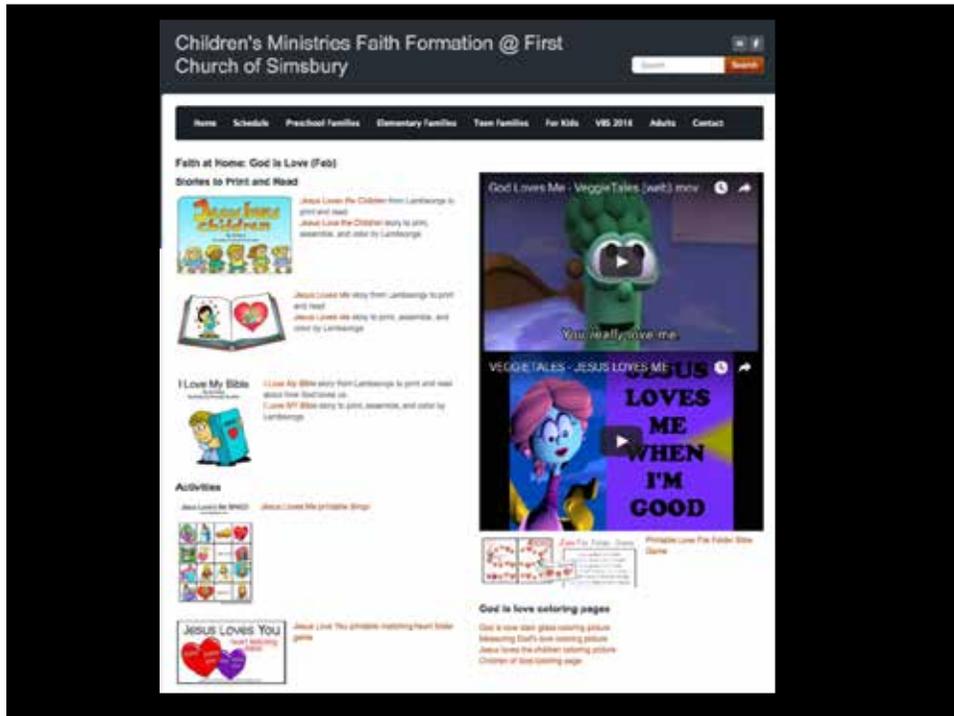


**Birthday Celebrations**

**Prayer**  
Lord, we come today to give thanks to you for creating the life of \_\_\_\_\_ (child). We ask your blessing on \_\_\_\_\_ (family). Pray family may continue to honor and praise you for being the gift and before you have given us. We ask that \_\_\_\_\_ (parent) continue to give to you, wisdom and grace in your gift.

**Birthday Blessing**  
Be thankful, not the work will have done to yourself, as in adulthood you will have your own work. Singing praises, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And wherever you do, be with us in mind, as we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, going forth to love the Father through you, Father of God in the Trinity.

**Prayer**  
God, I thank you for the gift of \_\_\_\_\_ (child) to your family. We ask that you will bless \_\_\_\_\_ (child) in your love and grace. We ask that you will bless \_\_\_\_\_ (child) in your love and grace. We ask that you will bless \_\_\_\_\_ (child) in your love and grace.



## Milestones throughout Life



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

## Milestones throughout Life



## Milestones throughout Life

- ✦ Baptism
- ✦ Anniversary of Baptism
- ✦ Prayer Milestone
- ✦ Welcoming Young Children to Worship
- ✦ Beginning School and Church Education
- ✦ First Eucharist
- ✦ First Bible
- ✦ Sexuality
- ✦ Middle School
- ✦ Confirmation
- ✦ Driver's License
- ✦ Mission Trip
- ✦ High School Graduation
- ✦ College Graduation
- ✦ Return from Military Deployment
- ✦ New Job
- ✦ New Home
- ✦ Empty Nest
- ✦ Marriage
- ✦ Becoming a Parent
- ✦ Becoming a Grandparent
- ✦ Retirement
- ✦ Caregiving Aging Parents
- ✦ Loss of Loved Ones
- ✦ Death and Funeral

## Milestones Faith Formation



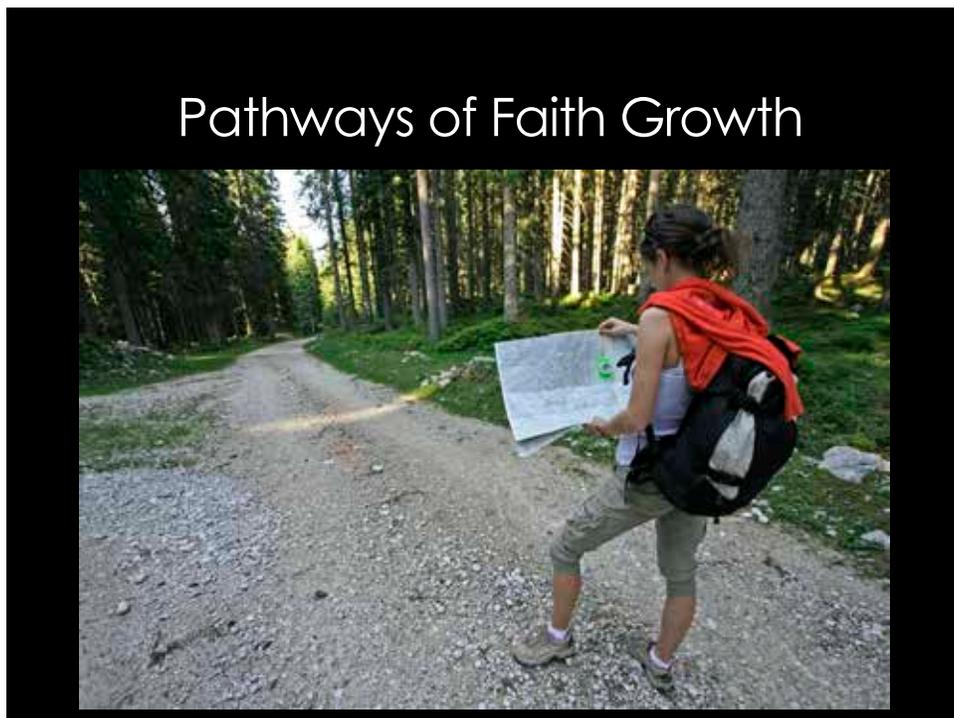
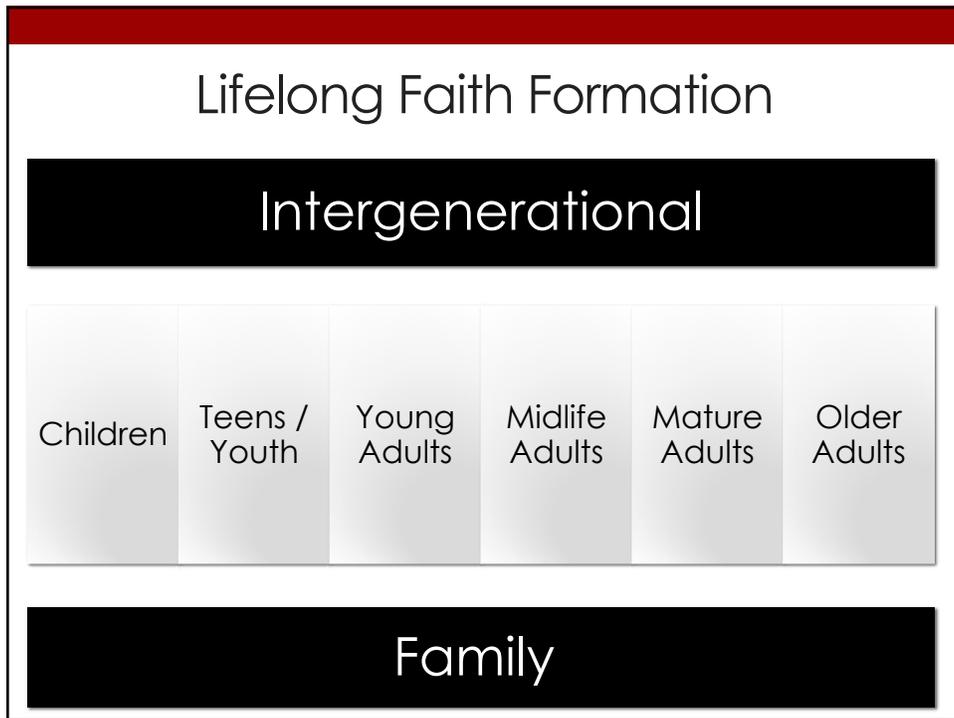
## Forming Faith: Life Stage Faith Formation

### 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



Connecting with God		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Personal Spiritual Practices		I am practicing 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 using my spiritual practices
		I read the Bible from time to time	I am learning about Bible, Doctrine, 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
In Community		I attend worship at least once a month	I attend worship on Sunday mornings at least once 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)
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 am open to being trained in church leadership	I am open to being trained in church leadership	I am open to being trained in church leadership, education, etc.
Individuality		I invite people to worship and church events	I invite others to worship and church events	I invite others to worship and church events	I invite others to worship and church events
		I share my faith with others through invitation and witness	I share my faith with others through invitation and witness	I share my faith with others through invitation and witness	I share my faith with others through invitation and witness

Changing Our World with Christ's Love		Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Community of Time, Talent, and Treasure (TTPC)		I like to hear how my church meets the needs of the community	I like to hear how my church meets the needs of the community	I like to hear how my church meets the needs of the community	I like to hear how my church meets the needs of the community
		I contribute with some Sunday offerings, at Christmas and Easter	I contribute with some Sunday offerings, at Christmas and Easter	I contribute with some Sunday offerings, at Christmas and Easter	I contribute with some Sunday offerings, at Christmas and Easter
In Community (Discipleship, Mission, Prayer, Service Projects, Social Action)		I learn from the church about caring for others in the community	I learn from the church about caring for others in the community	I learn from the church about caring for others in the community	I learn from the church about caring for others in the community
		I help in the community in the fields of art, academics, athletics, politics, charity, etc.	I help in the community in the fields of art, academics, athletics, politics, charity, etc.	I help in the community in the fields of art, academics, athletics, politics, charity, etc.	I help in the community in the fields of art, academics, athletics, politics, charity, etc.
In Community		I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith in my work world	I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith in my work world	I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith in my work world	I am learning how to apply Christian ethics and faith in my work world
		I assist the church to advocate for peace and justice for all	I assist the church to advocate for peace and justice for all	I assist the church to advocate for peace and justice for all	I assist the church to advocate for peace and justice for all

### Faith Growth Pathway

Central United Methodist Church  
Wardford, MA

For more information, please contact:

Rev. Kathy Prange  
Pastor of Lifelong Faith Formation  
kprange@wardfordcme.org  
248.68.0040

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## 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

- ✦ Offer a variety of content, experiences, and activities tailored to different spiritual-religious identities and the life stage needs of people
  - Getting Started ---- Growing ---- Going Deeper*
- ✦ Format the content tailored to different spiritual-religious identities
- ✦ Develop a digital platform with content to address the needs

## Playlists for Faith Formation



## Personalize the Offerings

### *Playlists Tailored to Different Faith Needs*

Playlist:  
Reading & Studying the Bible

#### **Getting Started**

- Participate in the “Welcome to the Bible” program at church
- Watch the video programs on how to read the Bible
- Watch the video program with an overview of the Old Testament and New Testament
- Use the Guide to select a Study Bible and find the Bible online
- Participate in the 30-Day Bible Experience: Reading one Gospel (Matthew, Mark, or Luke)

#### **Growing**

- Develop a daily plan for reading the Bible
- Participate in the lectio divina reflection group after Sunday worship
- Learn how to pray with the Bible
- Join a Bible study group (church, home, coffee shop, online)

#### **Going Deeper**

- Read the Bible in 365 days
- Develop a personal Bible study plan
- Take an online course: Hebrew Scriptures, Gospels, Letters of Paul
- Study and pray the Psalms as a spiritual practice

## 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?

## 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.

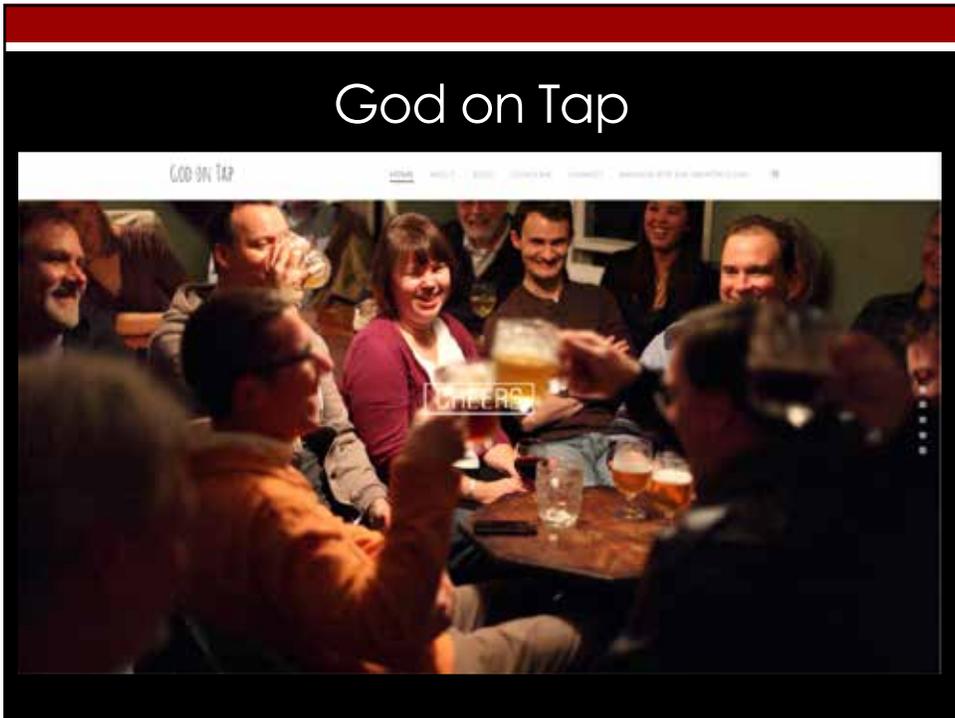
## Expand the Campus

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 CONTACT US SCHEDULE WHICH OF OUR EVENTS IS FOR YOU?

## 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 First & Main Brewing Company in Arden. Our topic: creativity.

When the creative seems to be sending you signals, it's 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 recording the lessons of the importance of boredom for creativity, to reading authors like Thomas Hux and Anne Lamott describe their writing process, to Elizabeth Gilbert's TED talk about how shame creative genius, to a conversation just this past week with my friend the Rev. East Ford about how he creates great projects like his Thirty Seconds to Love videos. (He describes his creative process as something akin to throwing spaghetti against a wall and seeing what happens.)

Creativity. It's a common thing. We create all kinds of art, theater, music, school lesson plans, woodworking projects, 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.

LET NEW BLOG POSTS BY EMAIL

Email Address:

SUBSCRIBE

#### RECENT BLOG POSTS

- Discussing Creativity at God on Tap Tomorrow Night!
 

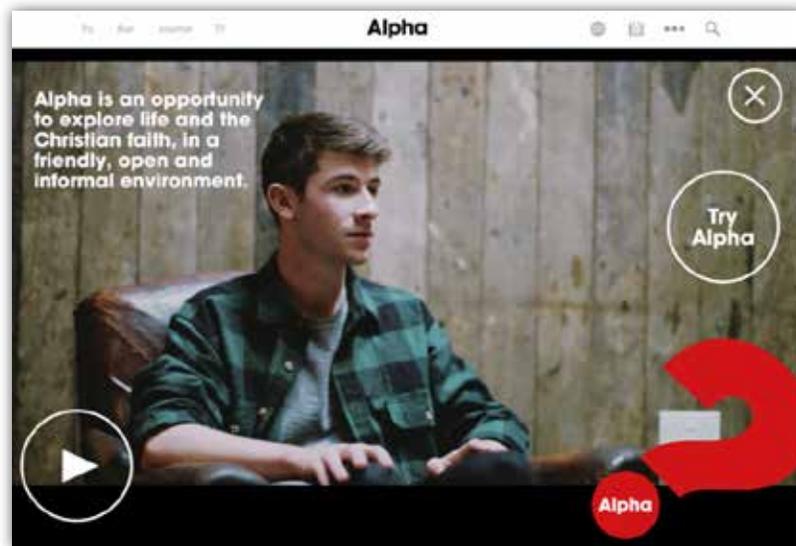
READ MORE
- God on Tap Tomorrow Night: Hearing our Spirit, Lenten 2018
 

READ MORE
- God on Tap Tonight: What do we mean by "highest reason" anyway?
 

READ MORE



## Pathway: Alpha Course



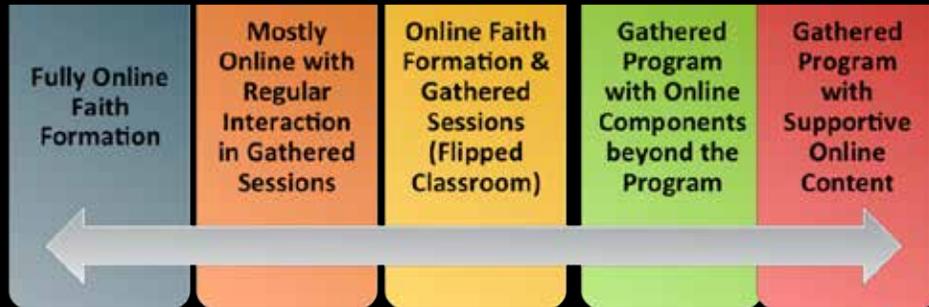
## Digital Faith Formation Strategies



## 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



## Extend the Event



# Sunday Worship

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

# Tri-Saints Lutheran Hardy, NE

**"HEROD IS ABOUT TO SEARCH FOR THE CHILD, TO DESTROY HIM."**

**The Sunday after Epiphany (transferred): January 14, 2018**

**This is the LAST week of #sundayworship. We will celebrate Epiphany of Our Lord next Sunday, January 21, 2018.**

**Focus Verse**

How often they had said, an object of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for I have said about to search for the child, to destroy him." (Matthew 2:13-15)

**Big Deeper Devotions: #sundayworship**

Annual meeting questions    For families    For youth    For adults

**Son and Near the Word**

JOHN REMEMBERS "THE SON OF THE MESSIAH" IS ABOUT TO BE THE MESSIAH OF ISRAELITE.

GOD CAN BRING THE SON OF ISRAELITE OUT OF THE HANDS OF "YRHALES".

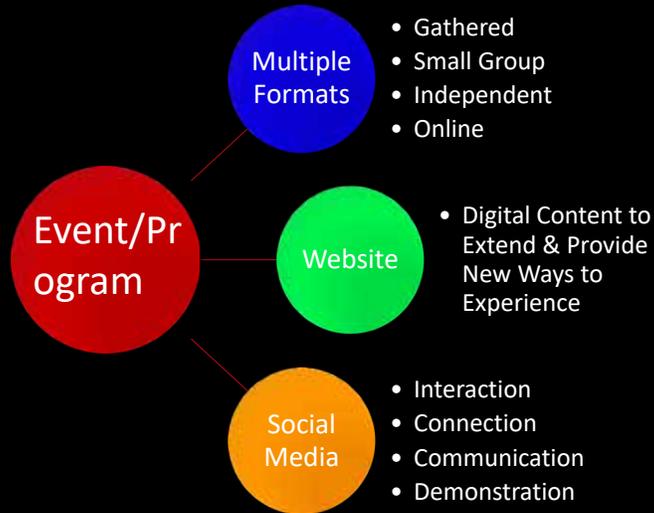
ALSO... THEY WANTED TO "SAVE" "THEY" COMMUNITY.

100 - Epiphany Epiphany

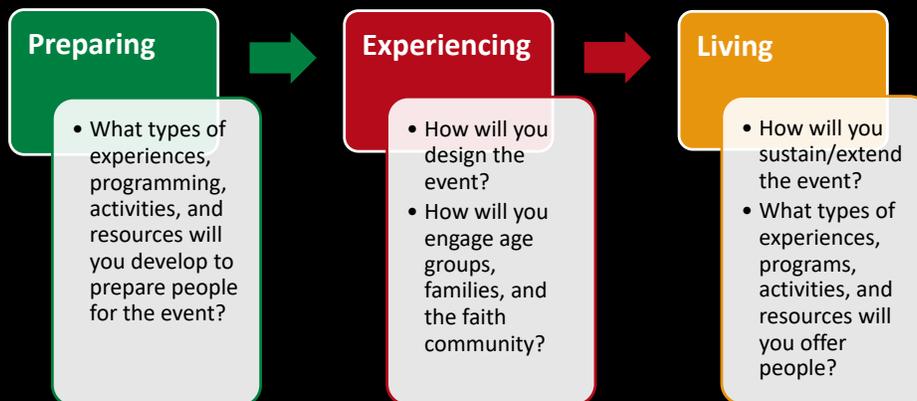
100 - Epiphany Epiphany

Find links to more Christian Education resources for all ages here.

## One Event/ Program, Multiple Formats



## Build on an Event/Experience



## Flip the Model

@ Home / Daily Life

Exploring the Content  
- print, audio, video,  
activities

@ The Program

Applying the Content:  
Create – Practice -  
Perform - Participate



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.



## Christian Initiation & New Member Formation



## Flip Christian Initiation

CATHOLICISM

FORMED



ASCENSION  
PRESENTS

my  
Catholic Faith  
DELIVERED™

# Integrate Online and Gathered

THE SLATE PROJECT

ABOUT CONTACT 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

**#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.

**#SlateSpeak**

Wow. That last hour was awesome. Thanks [#slatesp](#) for a great chat

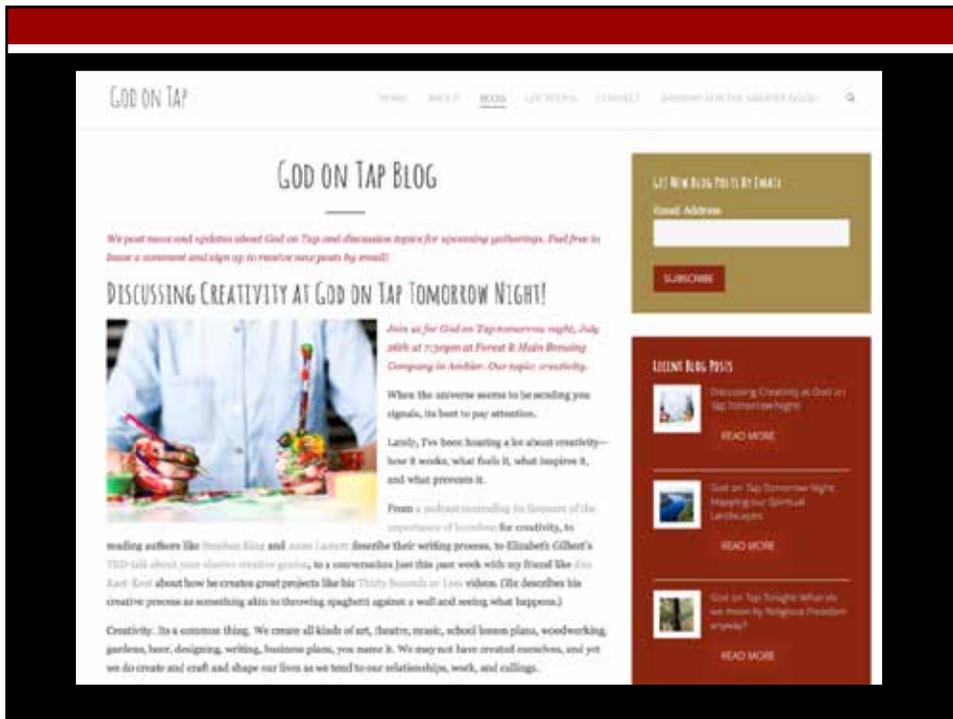
**#SLATEREADS**

[#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 these readings.

Follow the hashtag [#SlateReads](#) to participate!

# Integrate Online and Gathered



# 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 wreath of evergreen branches throughout four candles are arranged, representing the four weeks of advent. Usually, three candles are purple and one is pink. The purple candles are often for penitence, and the pink candles are for joy. The purple candles are for penitence and the pink candles are for joy. The purple candles are for penitence and the pink candles are for joy.

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**Jesus' Time:** The Jesus' Time helps us connect the seasons of December Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesus' Time is named from Isaiah 11:1-9, which 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 Jesus' Time with seasonal ornaments that represent the growth, promise, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesus' Time tell the story of Jesus in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the testaments or just across your thousand years of history. [Click here to view Jesus' Time.](#)

**Advent Daily Devotional**

[Advent Daily Devotional PDF Download File](#)

**Family Advent Calendar (English & Spanish)**

[Advent calendar 2017 Family \(English\) PDF Download File](#)

[Advent calendar 2017 Family \(Spanish\) PDF Download File](#)

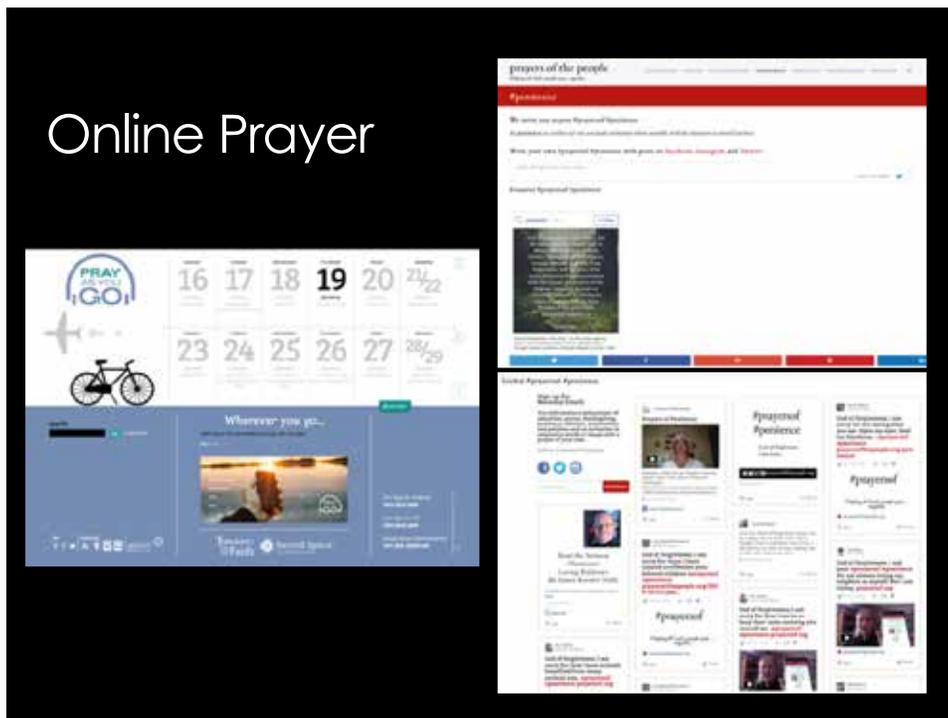
**Children's Advent Calendar**

[Advent children calendar PDF Download File](#)

[Advent children calendar Spanish PDF Download File](#)

**Best Advent Ever - Daily Reflections:** Starting December 1, the first Sunday of Advent, you'll receive daily emails with short inspirational letters from Matthew Kelly and St. Alan Watts, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life, and personal stories from Spiritual Catholic laity members. [Go to Best Advent Ever.](#)

**Second Advent Daily Reflections:** Continue the advent season as a second guest from the same of Jesus in that story. Second substance is daily a small prayer book during a busy season. Book also includes you in a step-by-step progression of praying with a Scripture reading, and related points of reflection. The message also includes suggestions for further exploration of Advent themes through administrative articles and projects. [Go to Second Advent.](#)



# 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 [USDLC 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.