



# VISION TO REALITY

DEVELOPING LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION  
FOR ALL AGES & GENERATIONS

Workshop #2 – Part 2  
John Roberto, Vibrant Faith

## 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.



# Virtual Learning Academy



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

Choose Your Path



## Middle School & High School

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



## Adult Education

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

## Summit Schools

### Summit's PERSONALIZED SCHOOLS

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

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



## 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

## 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.**

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

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

### Faith Growth Pathway

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

	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Discovering God	Attend Worship Occasionally Read Bible Stories or books	Attend Worship at least once a month Serve as a Greeter Read Bible Stories regularly	Attend Worship regularly Serve as an Usher Read a child friendly devotional regularly	Participate in Worship Serve as a Liturgist/Acolyte Create a Bible reading plan Share your faith story
Firming Disciples	Pray at mealtimes Learn about different kinds of faith practices Learn about Generosity	Pray at mealtimes and bedtime Try different kinds of faith practices Stewardship	Create prayer rituals (blessings, "Faith5") Engage in conversations about God and faith Practice Generosity of Time, Talents, Financial Gifts	Integrate prayer into daily routines Integrate faith concepts and actions into everyday life Share a story about your faith practice/generosity
Learning Christian Traditions	Introduce Basic Faith Words (appropriate to development)	Learn about Foundational Faith Concepts (appropriate to development)	Learn about John Wesley and our Methodist Heritage (Appropriate to development)	Participate in a children's small group experience
Seasonal Events and Milestones	Milestones Attend Christmas Eve and Easter Worship	Milestones Participate in a seasonal event	Milestones Participate in a seasonal devotion or study	Milestones Integrate seasonal themes in everyday life

	Planting	Nurturing	Shaping	Sharing
Caring Relationships	Observe youth/adults who have meaning and purpose Learn about the needs of others	Mimic youth/adults who have meaning and purpose Pray for the needs of others	Work alongside youth/adults who have meaning and purpose Help a neighbor or friend	Share story of meaning and purpose Invite a friend or neighbor to church or a church event
In Service and Mission	Learn about the needs of others in our community, nation, and world	Donate money or items for a service/mission project Give of your time or talents	Participate in a one-day service project Participate in a short-term family mission experience	Learn about and ready/serve others in a service/mission project that you are passionate about Invite others to participate in service/mission projects Share your experiences

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## spiritual assessment

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

2. I lay aside my own desires and sense of importance and submit to God's will for my life. 0 1 2 3 4 5

3. As a means of growing in Christ, I prayerfully practice various spiritual disciplines in my life. 0 1 2 3 4 5

4. I am experiencing "the fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22) in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. 0 1 2 3 4 5

5. I have a group of friends who grow in faith together and challenge each other to grow deeper in Christ. 0 1 2 3 4 5

### serving God

1. Invest time in building my relationships with God and with others. 0 1 2 3 4 5

2. I know my God-given spiritual gifts, and am actively serving Christ by using those gifts. 0 1 2 3 4 5

3. I give back to Christ by going to the church and to others in proportion to my income, with at least 10% as my goal. 0 1 2 3 4 5

4. I spend time serving in God's work by helping meet critical needs and showing what it means to follow Jesus Christ. 0 1 2 3 4 5

5. I am actively nurturing the spiritual lives of others, sharing my faith story, offering spiritual encouragement and leading others to Christ. 0 1 2 3 4 5

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

**Knowing:** 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Total Head \_\_\_\_\_

**Loving:** 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Total Heart \_\_\_\_\_

**Serving:** 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Total Hands \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Knowing God

We can never fully understand God (if we could, we wouldn't have much of a God!). But the 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.

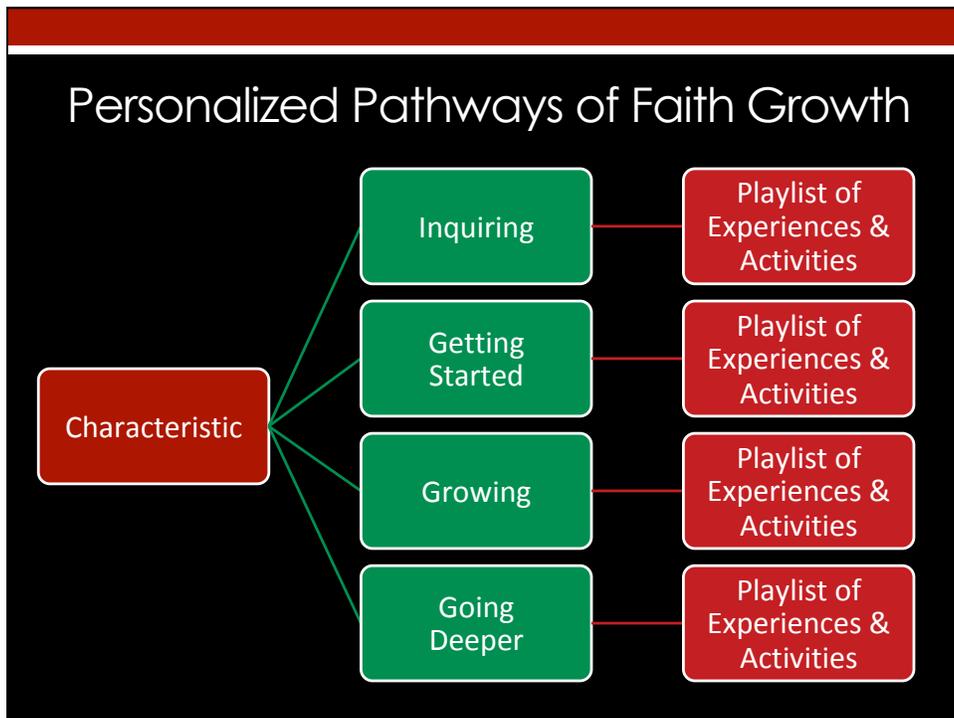
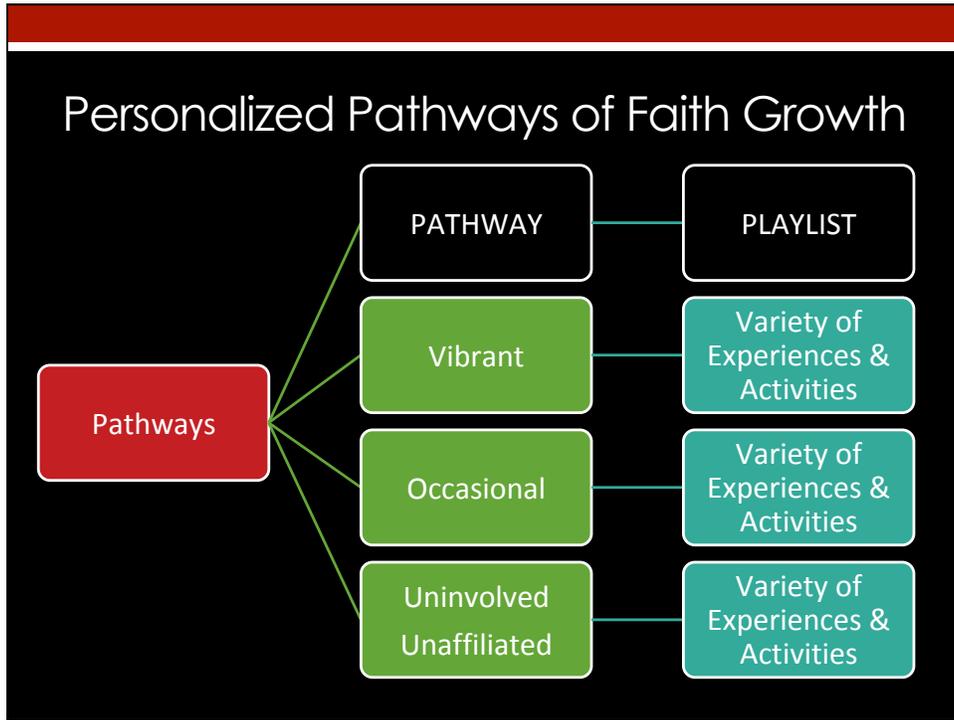
### Serving God

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.







## 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 faith formation programming & meetings
  - Small groups: affinity groups, interest groups, Bible study groups
  - On-ramps where people might start the discipleship journey
4. Develop the characteristics of faith growth 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

1. Sacraments/milestones: Marriage, Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, beginning church faith formation, etc.
2. RCIA, evangelization, and new member processes
3. Gathered faith formation events and programming
4. Parenting meetings
5. Small groups: affinity groups, interest groups, Bible study groups,
6. On-ramps where people in your church might start the discipleship journey

## Designing Step 4 – Characteristics

Develop the characteristics of faith growth you want to use in your Pathways model. For example:

1. Option 1. Use characteristics of faith growth specific to the life stage (such as family faith practices) or the content of the event (such as preparing for confirmation)
2. Option 2. Use characteristics of maturing faith

## Key Characteristics of Maturing Faith

- ✦ Relationships with Jesus Christ
- ✦ Living the Christian way of life - discipleship
- ✦ Living with moral integrity
- ✦ Learning and articulating the teachings of the Christian tradition
- ✦ Praying and seeking spiritual growth
- ✦ Studying and reading the Bible
- ✦ Engaging in service and mission to the world
- ✦ Worshipping with the community

### Adult Faith Growth Pathway

We believe that growth in our relationship with God and in following Jesus (discipleship) is a lifelong process. We are constantly trying to grow deeper in our relationship with God and in living the Christian way of life each day. Our church is committed to helping you grow wherever you may be in your faith journey. We are committed to helping you live the Christian way of life everyday.

To help you discover areas for growth and to help us serve you better, please take a few minutes to complete the Adult Faith Growth Pathway. It will help you identify strengths and areas of growth in your own life. Use these statements to assess where you are honestly and prayerfully. Rate "How true each statement is for you" using the rating scale: 1 = Rarely true of me, 2 = Sometimes true of me, 3 = Occasionally true of me, 4 = Almost always true of me, 5 = Always true of me.

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. I am growing in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 2. My faith shapes how I think and act each and every day.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 3. I make the Christian faith a way of life by integrating my beliefs into the conversation, decisions, and actions of daily life.                                   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 4. I am aware of God present and active in my own life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 5. I have a real sense that God is guiding me.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 6. I seek 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.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 7. I devote time to reading and studying the Bible.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 8. I use the Bible to discover how I should think and act.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 9. I pray to God and take quiet time to reflect and listen to God.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 10. I am growing spiritually through spiritual practices such as contemplation, <i>lectio divina</i> , praying Scripture, daily Examen (reflection), and meditation. | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 11. I can articulate the fundamental teachings of the Christian faith.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 12. I am growing in my understanding of the Christian faith—beliefs, traditions, and practices.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 13. I exercise moral responsibility by applying Christian ethics, virtues, and values to making moral decisions.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 14. My faith helps me know right from wrong.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 15. I live a life of service by caring for others and reaching out those in need.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 16. I am involved in ways to promote social justice and address injustice in the world.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 17. I am involved in actions to care for creation.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 18. I share the Good News of Jesus through my words and actions.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 19. I participate actively and regularly in the worship life of the church community.  | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 20. I participate in the life, ministries, and leadership of the church community.   | 1 2 3 4 5 |

#### Ways I Can Grow

- Areas Where I Need to "Get Started" (look at the numbers 1 and 2)
- Areas Where I Need to "Grow" (look at the numbers 2 and 3)
- Areas Where I Want to "Go Deeper" (look at the numbers 4 and 5)

## Designing Step 5 – Discernment

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

Inquiring--Getting Started--Making Progress--Going Deeper

“How true each statement is for you?”

- 1 = Rarely true of me
- 2 = Sometimes true of me,
- 3 = Occasionally true of me
- 4 = Almost always true of me
- 5 = Always true of me.

## Approach #2. Personalize the Offerings



### The Seasons of Adult Faith Formation

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

## 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 for Faith Formation



## Faith Formation Playlists

A faith formation playlist is a curated group of digital (online, video, audio, print) and gathered (church, home, small groups, etc.) faith forming experiences and resources that are tailored to the specific faith growth needs of people around a particular characteristic of faith maturing or theme/topic.

Playlists are developed for each “stage” on the discernment continuum, such as Inquiring, Getting Started, Growing, Going Deeper.

Each playlist provides a variety of ways for people to learn and grow in faith.

## 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...

edmodo Search Calendar Grades Library Home Profile Account

By Me

Post: Note Alert Assignment Quiz Poll

type your note here...

Mrs. Nero

Me to SPA 9 2012, SPA 9 2012 (Parents)

Please bring your cuaderno money to me this week:

Meha  
Chase  
Madie  
Josh  
Jeremy  
Patrick ...

...and it looks like Facebook!

Jun 25, 2012 | Reply | Share | Tag

Notifications

1 New Direct Post

Send Invitations

Invite other teachers to Edmodo

Suggestions

Create badges for your students!

Professional Development

Follow

Mr. Craig Tessier

Connect

# Google Classroom

Google Classroom

Physical Education  
Theresa Teacher  
UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS  
No assignments

Design 101  
Intro course  
0 students  
UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS  
No assignments

Art History  
Period 1  
5 students  
UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS  
No assignments

Intro to World History  
Period 3  
1 student  
UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS  
No assignments

Poetry for Physicists  
1 student  
UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS  
No assignments

Astronomy  
Introduction to Astronomy  
4 students  
UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS  
No assignments

Home

Algebra 2  
Period 6  
Zach Yeckel  
UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS  
Watch the introduction to Algebra and its question...  
Linear Equations and Inequalities Worksheet  
Physical Education  
Period 4  
Austine Tu  
UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS  
Weekly Run

Balancing Equations Worksheet  
Assignment posted Dec 13  
Complete your version of the attached worksheet. Remember that the positions of the numbers means different things! Remember the number is  
2 comments

Record your own video of The Elements Song  
Assignment posted Dec 13  
Due Wed

Record your own video of The Elements Song  
INSTRUCTIONS YOUR WORK  
Record your own video of The Elements Song  
Due Wed  
Feel free to use props, animations, and other creative embellishments.  
Attachments  
Daniel Radcliffe sings The Elements Song  
1:54 seconds  
Comments  
Zach Yeckel Dec 13  
Do we all have to do our videos with British accents?  
Justine Tu Dec 13  
I love this song!

# Digital Faith Formation Strategies



# Blended Learning

**Blended learning is a formal education program in which a student learns:**



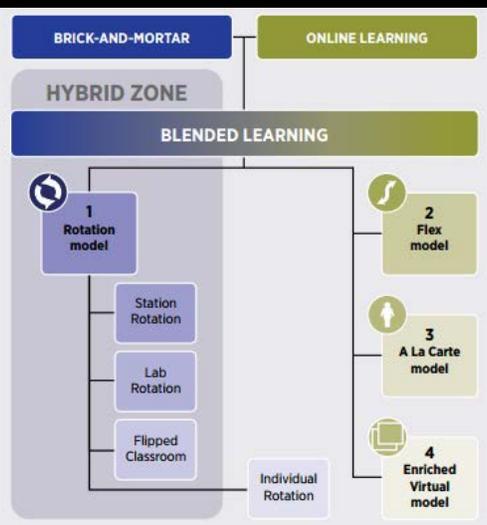
at least in part through online learning, with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace;



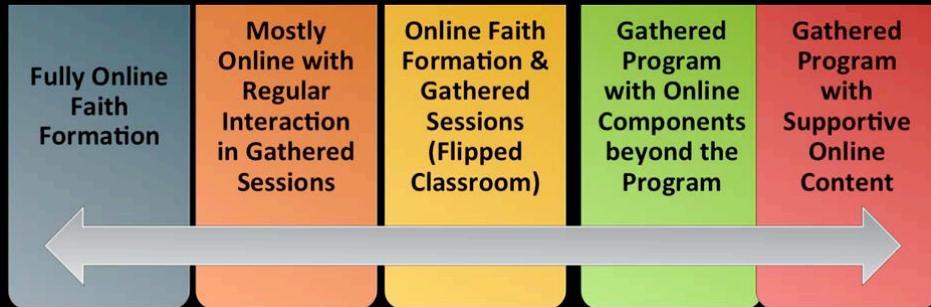
at least in part in a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home;



and the modalities along each student's learning path within a course or subject are connected to provide an integrated learning experience.



## Digitally Enabled & Digitally Connected Faith Formation



## Extend the Event



# Sunday Worship

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



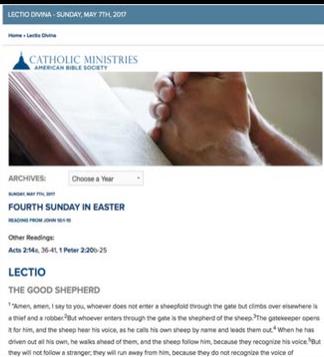
**The Sunday Website**  
of Saint Louis University

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**

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 his voice."



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

What do you think is the Good Shepherd's voice? Pray for the spiritual practices that allow us to listen with the heart. In the busy sounds of everyday life, in difficult times, essential listening requires silence.

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

[Subscribe to Between Sundays First!](#)

[Events from The Five Loaves](#) | 
 [The Five Practices of Christian Discipleship](#) | 
 [Weekly Video for Your Website](#) | 
 [In Site™](#)

# Tri-Saints Lutheran Hardy, NE

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

Image created on Canva. Photo "pyramids" by mikloot on flickr.com CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

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

This is the LAST week of #jesusbirthatox. We will celebrate Baptism of Our Lord next Sunday, January 21, 2018.

**Focus Verse**

Now after they had left, an angel 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 Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." (Matthew 2:13 NRSV)

Dig Deeper Devotions: #jesusbirthatox

[Annual Meeting Questions](#) | 
 [For Families](#) | 
 [For Youth](#) | 
 [For Adults](#)

See and Hear the Word

WILLING BABES? THAT'S NOT A CHRISTMAS STORY!

YES! HEROD'S THE DATE OF THE BIRTHS - ONLY HE'LL BE THE PERFECT ISRAELITE.



www.adulttime.com

GOD CAN BRING THE SONS OF SALVATION EVEN OUT OF THE EVIL ACTIONS OF TYRANTS.



WHY - I BET HEROD DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING!



MATTIE W. 2-15-18  
© CHRISTIAN ART BY

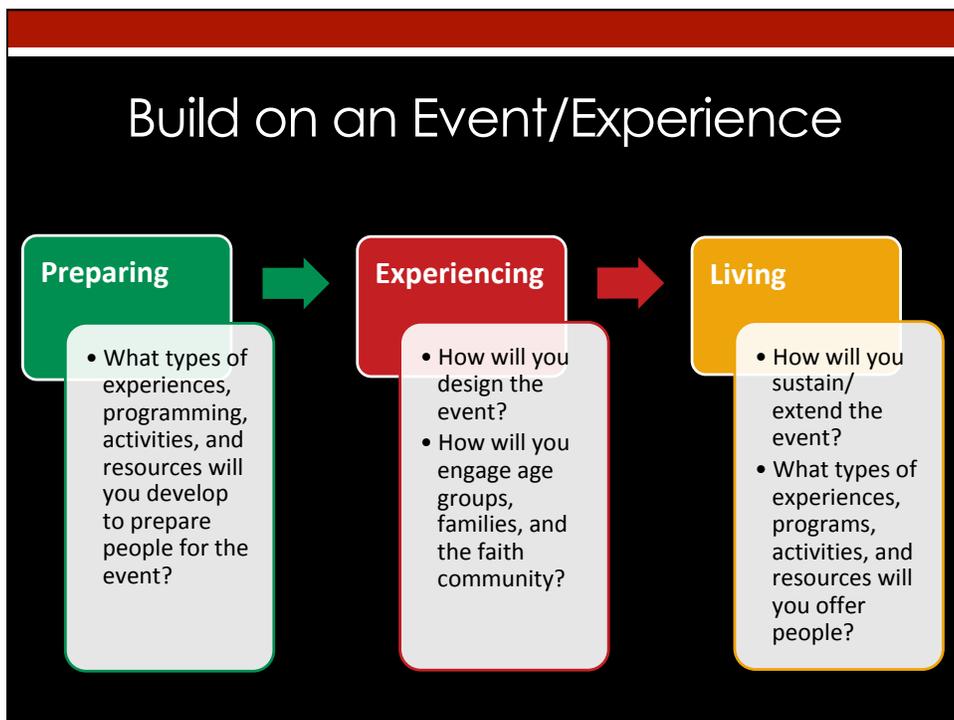
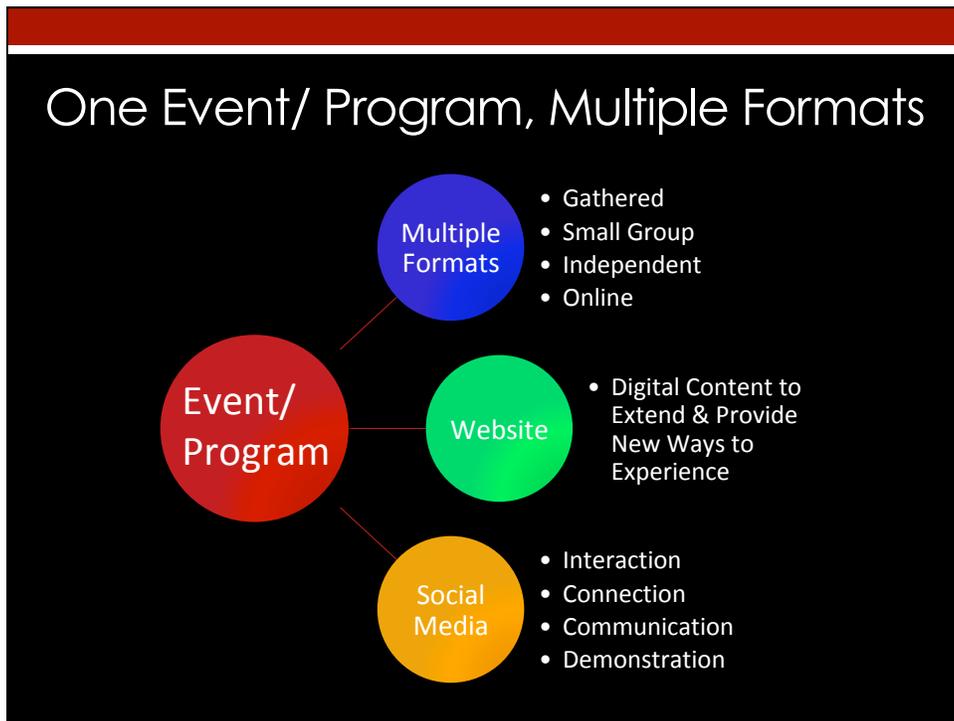
005 - Escape to Egypt

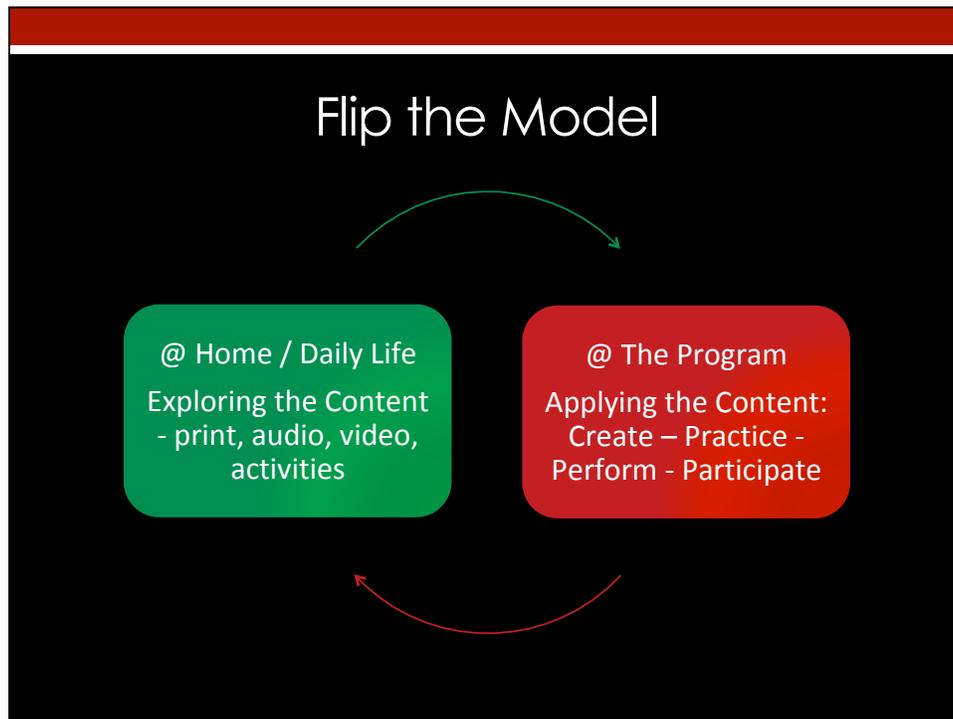


12 - Moses in the



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





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

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

# Flip the Model

**SPIRITUALITY & PRACTICE**  
RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

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

**Courses**

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

**Bible Study**

- entire: Bible 1 with Eric Olson, Phyllis Trickett, and Rachel Sidel Davis
- entire: Bible 1 with Nadia Bolz-Weber and Jon Berens
- entire: Bible 1 with William Willmore and Jay Bullock
- entire: Practices with Brian McLean and Sam Miller
- entire: Practices 1 with Mike Slaughter and Phyllis Trickett
- entire: Practices 1 with Mike Slaughter, Emma Thomas, and Doug Pettit
- entire: Approaching Scripture with Vicki Carney
- entire: Getting More Out of the Bible with Sarah Welby
- entire: Introduction to the Bible with Mark S. Zuckler
- entire: Introducing the Psalms with Isaac Demott
- entire: Introducing the Gospels with Richard Long

**Follow the Blog**

Follow us on twitter and facebook to stay up to date on all the latest news from ChurchNext.

**ChurchNext Links**

ChurchNext Learn Press request teachers to register, keep up to date on ChurchNext news, and more.

**ON-DEMAND E-COURSES**

**Retreats on Classic Practices**  
30 e-courses  
Step-by-step instructions from well-known spiritual teachers on practices from the world's religions. Embedded lessons, audio, video, and more.

**Retreats on Sacred Texts**  
11 e-courses  
Messages from sacred texts and commentaries by our teachers on being the wisdom, Ruth, The Gospel of Thomas, The Psalms, The Gospels, A Course in Miracles, The Qur'an, the Tao Te Ching, and more.

**Elder Spirituality & Courses**  
14 programs  
An elders by elders, e-courses that enhance aging. Plus practical programs for the spiritual work of this stage of life.

**Practicing Spirituality: The Religions**  
10 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**  
10 e-courses  
40 part programs using book excerpts and practice suggestions to show how to be spiritual at home, at work, in nature, during illness, with children, and more.

**Practicing Spirituality: Master Teachers**  
10 e-courses  
40 part programs using excerpts from the writings of spiritual masters as the starting point for a variety of spiritual practices.

**OUR E-COURSES**

Most of us here to go away on a spiritual retreat to:

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

We bring the retreats to you! S&P e-courses, designed to fit your schedule and your budget, turns your annual retreat into a spiritual retreat center.

**MORE ABOUT OUR E-COURSES**

- Current E-Courses with Practice Circles
- What People Are Saying
- Custom E-Courses
- FAQs
- S&P E-Course Brochure (PDF)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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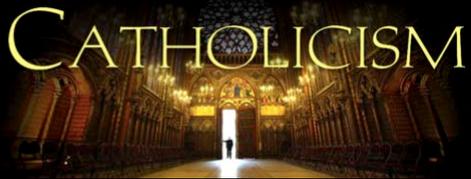
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Flip Christian Initiation

CATHOLICISM



ASCENSION  
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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. #SlateSpeak.
- 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

[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [BLOGS](#) [LOCATIONS](#) [CONNECT](#) [BREWING FOR THE GREATER GOOD](#)



## 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 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 [Sharing 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 funds 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](#)  
Download File

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



[advent-calendar-2017-family-english.pdf](#)  
Download File



[advent-children-calendar.pdf](#)  
Download File

[advent-children-calendar-spanish.pdf](#)  
Download File

**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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**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME** | **MCGRATH INSTITUTE for CHURCH LIFE**



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LEARN HOW YOU CAN ENRICH YOUR VOCATION AND YOUR LIFE

**Courses Starting on June 12**

- 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
- Large Guide for the Priesthood
- SCM: Can We Get the Bix Right?
- Women and Collaboration in the U.S.
- Youth Ministry 101

**School Teacher**  
Strengthen your knowledge of the Catholic faith by joining other dedicated Catholic school educators in a course designed specifically for teachers.  
[Learn More >](#)

**Deacon**  
STEP provides you with continuing education. STEP can help you with basic deacon certification as well as more advanced courses.  
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**Catechist**  
Whether you are a DRE, a CDE, or a retired catechist, STEP can help you with basic catechist certification as well as more advanced courses.  
[Learn More >](#)

**Key Minister** | **Parishioner Director** | **Adult Catholic**

**SPIRITUALITY & PRACTICE** | RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

HOME PRACTICES E-COURSES FILMS BOOKS ARTS QUOTES

**ON-DEMAND E-COURSES**

- Retreats on Classic Practices**  
10 e-courses  
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**  
10 e-courses  
Paraphrase from sacred texts and commentaries by our teachers on living the wisdom of Ruth, the Gospel of Thomas, the Psalms, the Gospels, A Course in Miracles, the Qur'an, the Tao Te Ching, and more.
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10 e-courses  
For elders by elders, e-courses that reflect aging. Plus practical programs on the spiritual work of this stage of life.
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- Practicing Spirituality: Master Teachers**  
10 e-courses  
40-part programs using excerpts from the writings of spiritual masters as the starting point for a variety of creative spiritual practices.

**BOSTON COLLEGE**

ABOUT BC ACADEMICS ADMISSIONS APPLICANTS CAREERS COLLEGE LIFE

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COURSES OFFERED

**REGISTER** | **COURSE SCHEDULE**

**COURSES**

- SCRIPTURE**  
Discover the riches of the Bible with an introductory level overview of a specific book of the Bible, or with a course that offers a thematic exploration of Scripture.
- THEMES FROM OUR CHRISTIAN TRADITION**  
What does it mean to be a Catholic Christian? The category includes a range of courses that define or explore identity and describe our beliefs.
- SACRAMENTS AND LITURGY**  
Reverence Catholic Christian worship as the "heart and soul" of our lives. Learn about the Church's seven sacraments, or trace an individual's journey with our liturgical life through courses on practices and energy planning.
- THE MORAL LIFE**  
What is different about human moral experience and character? Reflect on these questions in the context of Christian theology, with an emphasis of moral theology, the basics of Catholic Social Teaching, and more.

**Online Learning**

**CHURCHNext**

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

Home | Certificate & Non-Certification | Classes | For Clergy | For Youth | Support | The Big Day | Teachers | Launch Page

**CN**  
www.ChurchNext.ca

**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 Thon, Phyllis Trible, and Rachel Todd Davis  
introduction Bible + with Paula Bala-Welton and Jon Madson  
introduction Bible + with William Willimon and Jay Bybee  
introduction Practices with Bruce McClure and Lisa Miles  
introduction Practices + with Mike Staugler and Phyllis Trible  
introduction Practices + with Steve Callahan, Steve Olson, and Dong Pagan  
Approaching Scripture with Vicki Carney  
Getting More Out of the Bible with Judith Kelly  
Introduction to the Bible with Nancy Sublette  
Introducing the Psalms with Isaac Deenit  
Introducing the Gospels with Michael Carr

Search: \_\_\_\_\_ Search

Categories

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# Online Prayer

The screenshot displays the 'prayers of the people' website interface. On the left, there is a calendar for January with dates 16 through 29. A 'PRAY AS YOU GO!' logo is visible above the calendar. Below the calendar, there is a search bar and a section titled 'Wherever you go...' with a video player showing a sunset over water. On the right side of the page, there is a social media feed for '#prayersofpenitence'. The feed includes a post from 'prayersof' with a video thumbnail and several tweets from users sharing their prayers and experiences with the #prayersofpenitence hashtag.

# Pastoral Care

The screenshot shows the CaringBridge website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Sign In or Register', 'About Us', 'How It Works', 'Start A Site', and 'Search'. A 'Donate to CaringBridge' button is also present. The main banner features a young boy and a woman, with the text 'STRONGER TOGETHER' and 'Share, Connect and Rally Support Personal, Protected Websites for Every Health Journey'. Below the banner, there is a 'Visit a Friend's Website' section with a search box for 'Person's Name'. At the bottom, there is a prominent call to action: 'START YOUR FREE WEBSITE' with a 'Get Started' button. Below this, it says 'Save Time with One Update' and 'No more repeating the story over and over. Connect with all of your family and friends at once, giving you time to focus on what matters.'

# Webinar Live Presentation

Upper Dublin  
Lutheran  
Church



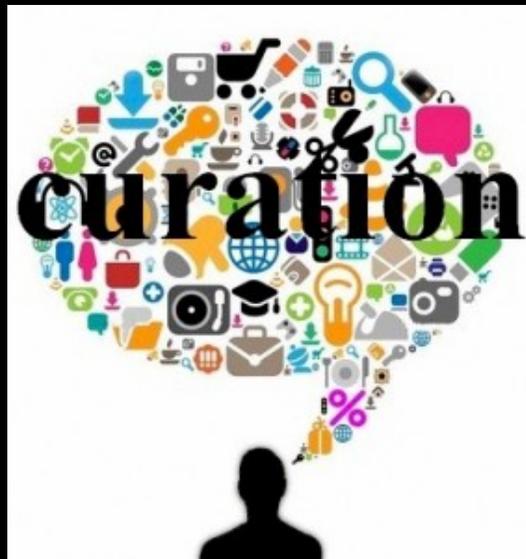
## Teens and Digital Media: Our First Facebook Live Event!

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.

## Curating Faith Formation

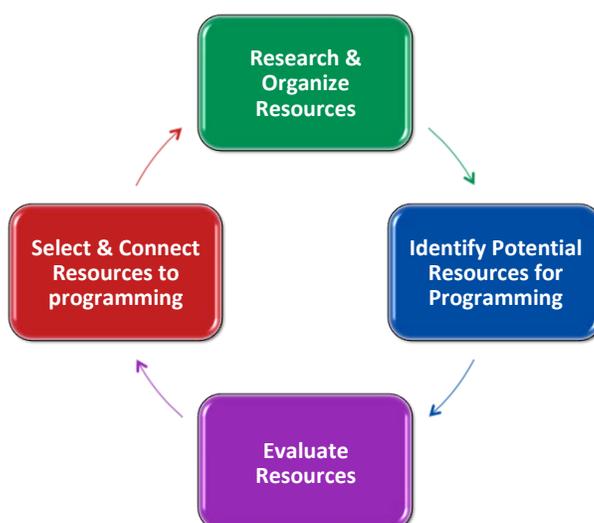


## What is Content Curation (Beth Kanter)

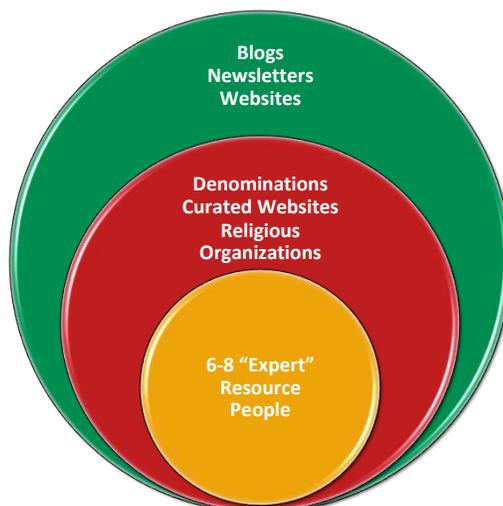
Content curation is the process of sorting through the vast amounts of content on the web and presenting it in a meaningful and organized way around a specific theme.

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

## Curating Religious Content



## Develop Trusted Sources



## Develop a Research Checklist

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

## Develop Evaluation Criteria

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