

Why Engaging Families Is More Important Than Ever and How To Do It Well!

Dr. Kathie Amidei
Parish Councils Congress
November 2022





Love
brought you
to life as a
family....

Follow the Way of Love
USCCB 1994



What you do in your family to create a community of love, to help each other to grow, to serve those in need is critical, not only for your own sanctification but for the strength of society and our Church. It is a participation in the work of the Lord, a sharing in the mission of the Church. It is holy.

Families and Faith



Family Program

1995 – Present Families: 20-300

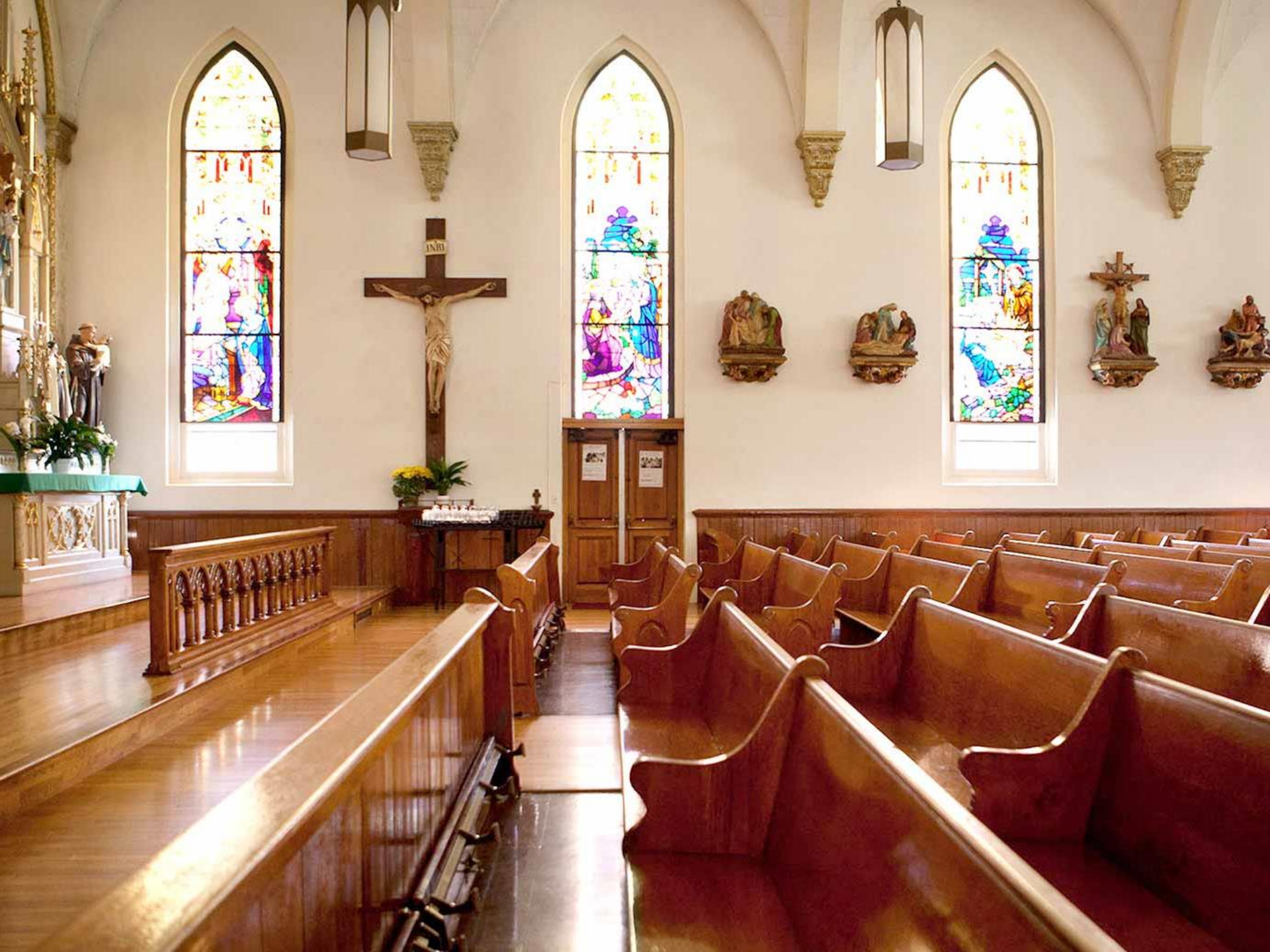


From Generation to Generation:

A Case Study on Factors in Family
and Faith Community Impacting
Faith Development

2012








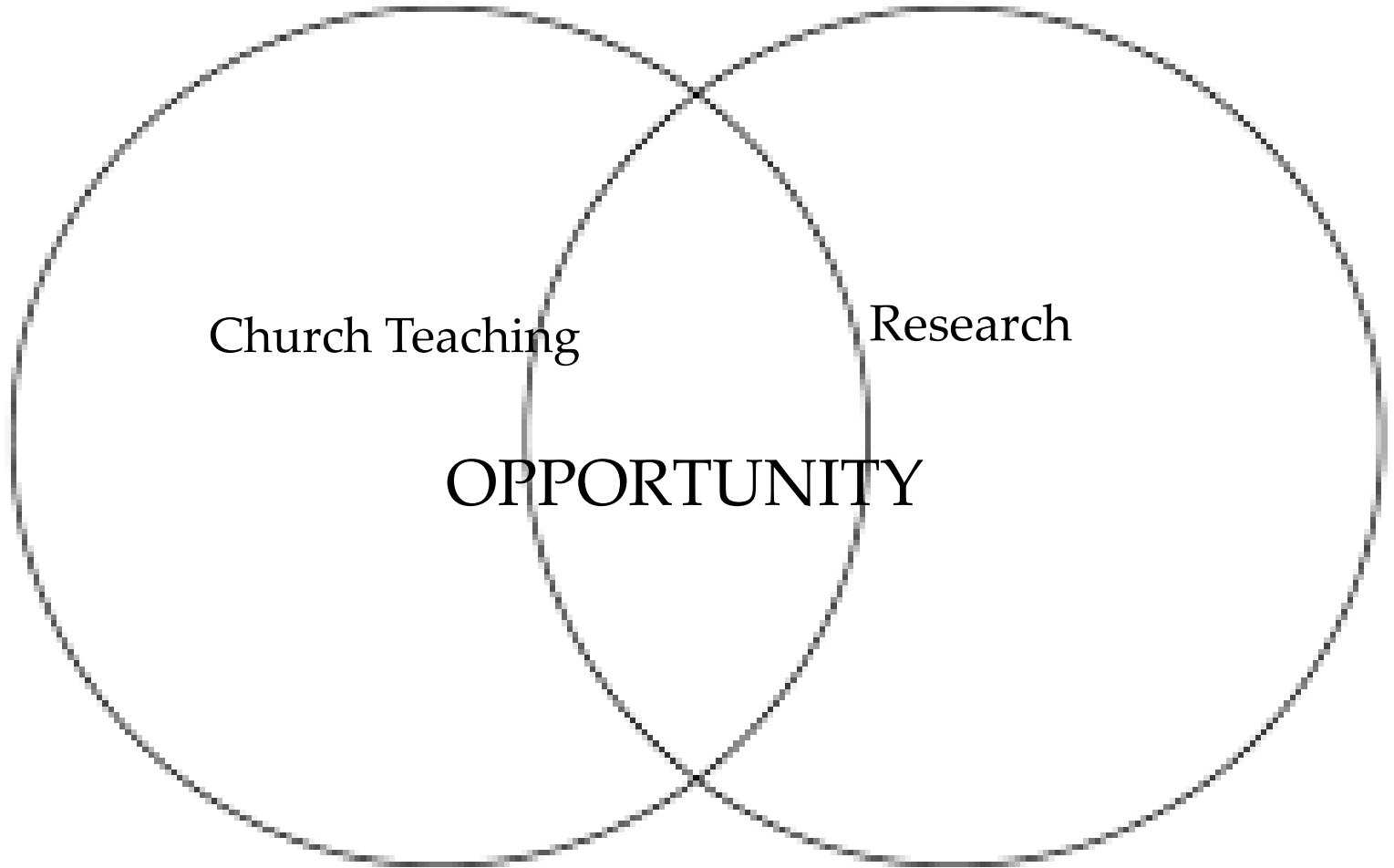
Families are not a problem;
they are first and foremost an opportunity...

Families are...

- Created to teach us about God and to show us who God is
 - Complicated
 - Full of grace
 - The foundation we build life on or what we spend our life healing from
- 

THE
TWO PLACES WE
KNOW WE'RE ALWAYS
WELCOME ARE CHURCH
AND GRANDMA'S
HOUSE.





Church Teaching

Research

OPPORTUNITY



Church Teaching

Research

OPPORTUNITY

Baptism Promises



Catechism of the Catholic Church

- The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom.

(CCC #2207)

- The Christian family... should be called a **domestic church**.

(CCC #2204, 2205)

Catechism of the Catholic Church

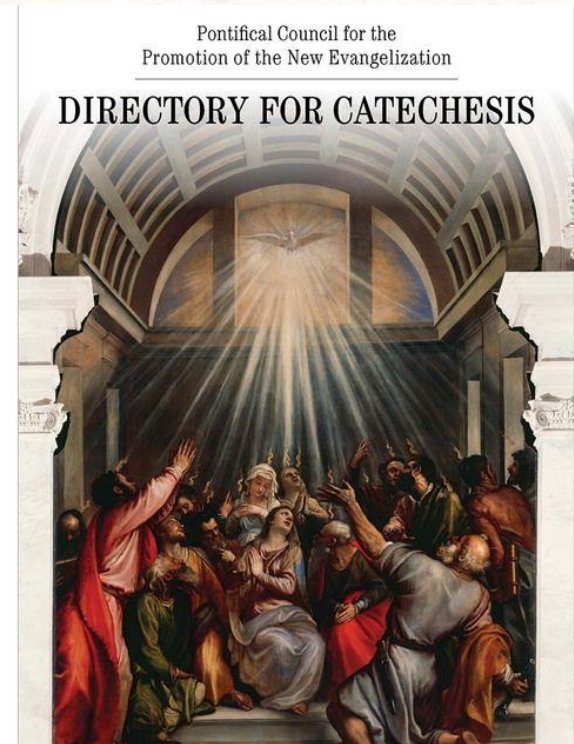
- Parents receive the responsibility and privilege of **evangelizing** their children.
- Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the "**first heralds**" for their children.

(CCC # 2225)

The New Directory for Catechesis

Believing in parents, with their daily example of life, have the most effective capacity to transmit the beauty of the Christian faith to their children.

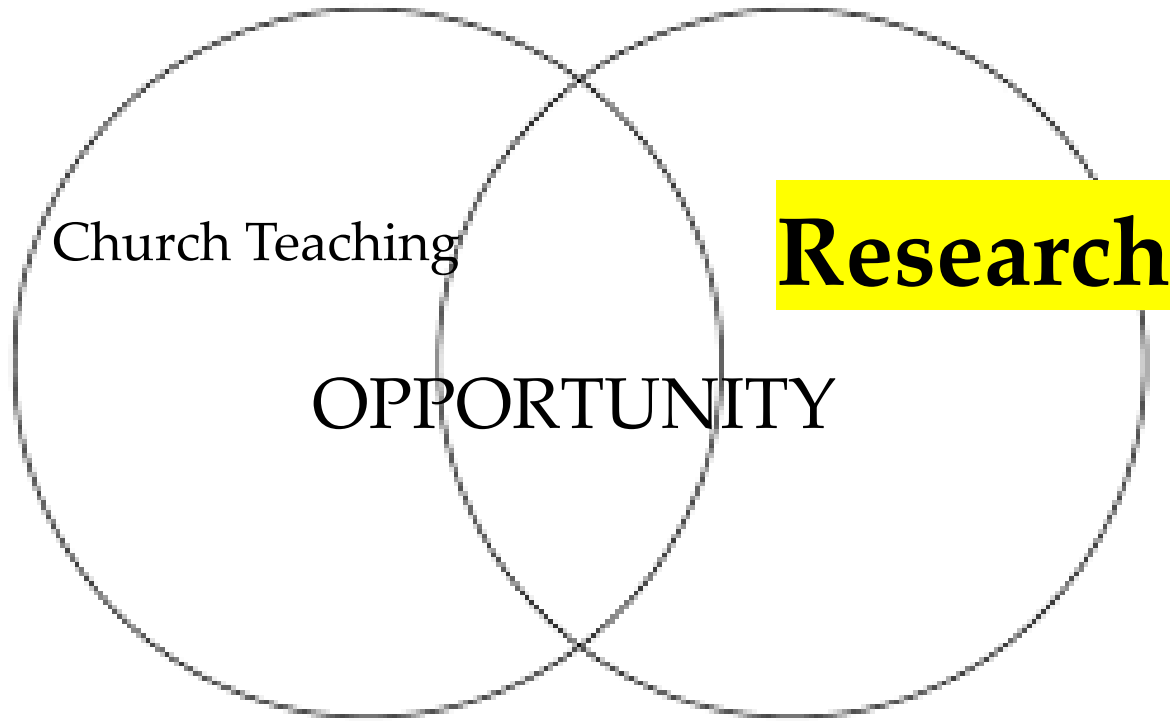
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Parents



- Parents have the opportunity to be their child's first educators (and witness to) faith.
- The greatest challenge to parents engaging in this catechetical vocation is the temptation to delegate the responsibility to parish catechetical leaders and catechists.



Church Teaching

Research

OPPORTUNITY

What is Sticky Faith?

Sticky Faith is an innovative, research-based, and extensively field-tested movement designed to equip parents with insights and ideas for nurturing long-term faith in children and young people.

(Kara Powell, Brad Griffin, Cheryl Crawford, Chap Clark)



What Creates Sticky Faith?



Partnership with Families

Sticky Faith

Separating
to
Integrating



Sticky Faith

Drycleaner
to
Partner



Three activities in the home that empower young people in faith

- Family Faith Conversations
- Family Ritual and Devotion
(Prayer / Worship)
- Family Service and Outreach



The single most important influence on the religious “outcomes” of children is the **religious lives of their *parents***



Handing
Down the Faith

Both the Church and Research Tell Us Parents Matter!!!

The best social predictor... of what the religious and spiritual lives on youth will look like is:

What the spiritual and religious lives of their parents **DO** look like.

(NSYR- Soul Searching)



Practical Strategy #1

What is your *Faith Formation/*
Religious Education model?

A large group of people, including men, women, and children, are running a race on a paved path outdoors. The runners are wearing various athletic clothing like tank tops, t-shirts, and shorts. The background shows green trees and a clear sky, suggesting a park or school setting. The overall scene is energetic and crowded.

**PARENTS DROPPING
THEIR KIDS OFF**

INK4AUTISM

ON THE FIRST DAY BACK TO SCHOOL

Engaging the Parking Lot Parent



Family Catechetical Model






How does a Family Model help busy parents with their most important job they will ever have?

Comprehensive Family Faith Formation Model

Key Components

- 1.) Social/Community Building Time
 - 2) Grade Level Classes including Adult Sessions
 - 3) Family Activity Session
- 



Social/ Community Building
The Importance of Fellowship
Networking Families

Why Fellowship Matters?



Intergenerational Relationships

(5:1 ratio)

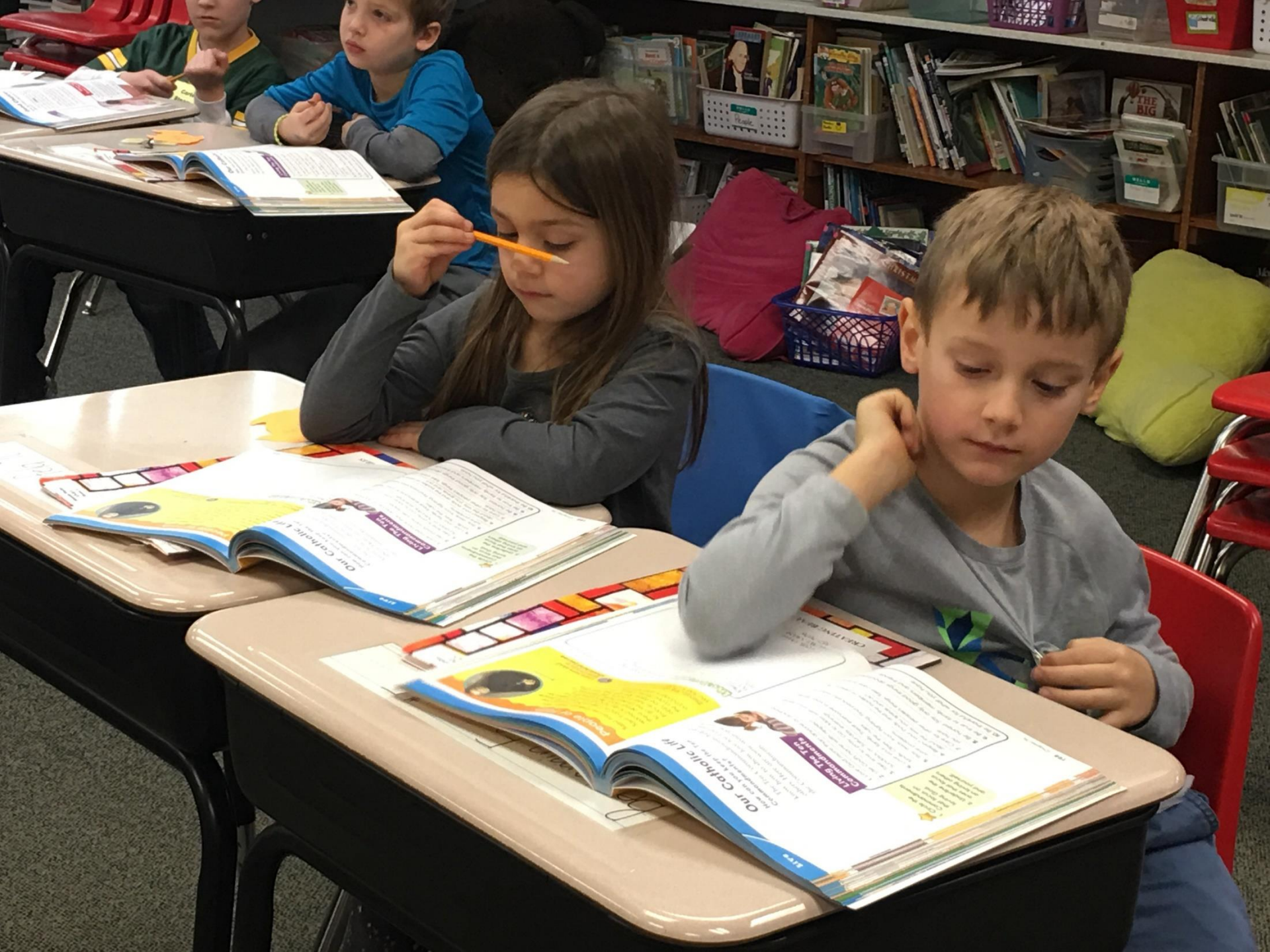
Kids need to develop a strong personal identity for faith to stick and community helps do just that!

Religious Socialization



Age-Specific Systematic Comprehensive Learning for Children and Youth







Types of PECH
Nouns
Verbs
Adjectives
Adverbs

Kind words are the music of the world.

5th GRADE JOBS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mass Starters
October 4: Rhyta/Sophia
October 11: Berni/Larissa
October 26: Sonni/Madise

Kind words are the music of the world.



Julian Miller

COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COURTESY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA





Adult Formation

**Age-Specific Learning for Children and Youth...
AND ADULTS...**



**Why Parent Formation
is such an integral
to a Family Approach!**

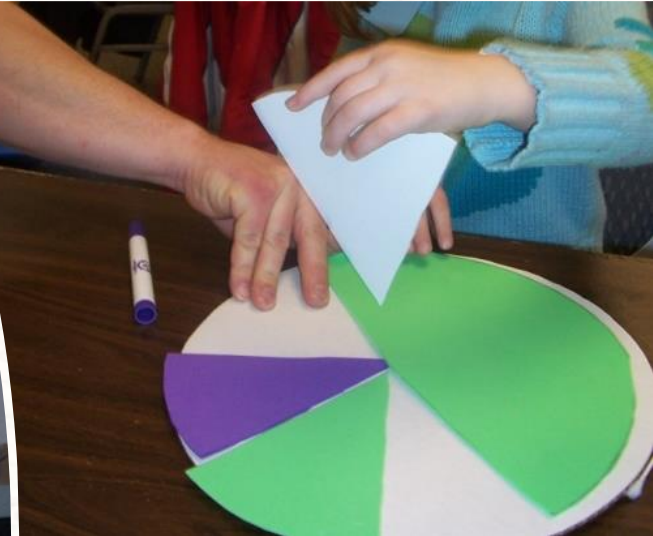
Parent Small Groups





Family Activity

The Liturgical Year





EXIT

MEETING ROOM 2
MAR 2

HANSEN
BARN

Owen
Hanson

Advent
-purple-

Lent
-purple-

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Christina
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Alex R.

Curriculum News

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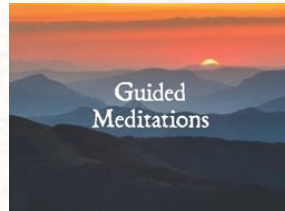
Practical Strategy #2

Intergenerational
Gatherings



Pet Blessing

Prayer Fair





KIM
LAKES
LACROSSE

Don't forget to
remember
the good
times

MEMBERS
P





Family Adoration

O Come Little Children

Sunday

December 11

10 – 11:30 a.m.



Join us after the 9:00am Mass
for this special Christmas event.
Register on mySAL or our website!

MILWAUKEE
REP

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

December 16, 2022

Parish and School Students in 6-12 grade are invited to attend A Christmas Carol at the Milwaukee Rep. Register today via mySAL or the link on our website!





ST. NICK AT NITE

Monday, December 5, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
St. Anthony on the Lake
Parish Life Center

A December Celebration of Generosity.
An evening for families looking for the
"True Spirit of Christmas".

Register on mySAL or our website!

Intergenerational Faith Formation Community

- Is most natural. It is how we are wired as human beings
- It is emerging in vibrant faith communities
- Is challenging because in some ways it is counter cultural
- Is essential for the future life of our children and our churches

Practical Strategy #3

Family Service
Opportunities

All Ages Service Project





Service-Learning Methodology

THANK YOU for bringing your items for the food boxes!



FOOD BOXES

FOOD BOXES

Family

At the Family Program in December, we will pack Christmas food boxes for the House of Peace. Please bring food items on Dec. 5th (not Nov. 21/22). In order for each of our needy families who receive the boxes to get what they need, we have assigned each of our families to bring one specific set of items. We combined them in such a way that we believe each set of groceries costs about the same for each family. Please bring your items to Family Program when you come on Dec. 5th or drop them off the week of Nov. 28 at the FF Office. If you cannot be at Family Program on Dec. 5th, we ask that you still participate and bring your food items ahead of time, marked with your family and program name, since we have made a commitment to the House of Peace based on our total Family Program donation! Thank you so much for your donation!

Families please bring:

Family,
please bring 6 cans of gravy
- not glass jars please.

Please put them by the signs.

Service Learning





Intergenerational serving
learning methodology



Pizza with a Purpose

Practical Strategy #4

Parish-wide non-gathered
Family Engagement

Family Take-Home Project

Advent wreath kit
and prayers

Email Blessing of
Christmas Tree
and Creche
Blessing



Your Advent Wreath



Thank you for participating in this activity of creating your own Advent wreath!

This will be a special part of your upcoming season of waiting and watching.

Included in this kit are all the materials you will need to make your Advent wreath, as well as this packet, which includes:

- Directions for how to make your wreath
- *The Story of the Advent Wreath*
- A short prayer service to bless your Advent wreath
- A prayer for each week of Advent that you can say as you light the next candle in your wreath

*We wish you the holiest of Advent seasons, as we make our way
to celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus, on Christmas!*

DIRECTIONS:

1. Place your wreath flat on your work surface.
2. Place the 4 candle holders evenly spaced around your wreath.
3. Wrap the greenery around the candle holders, using floral wire to secure.
4. Wrap the pink and purple ribbons around the greenery to decorate the wreath.
5. Place the candles in their holders around the wreath.

Note: Feel free to add your own fresh greenery if you like.

Please share photos of your wreath. We'd love to see your family gathered around this symbol of the Advent season! And let us know if you have any questions:

Kathie Amidei: amideik@stanthony.cc or 262-691-9170, x1104

If you provided your email when you ordered this kit, you will receive a blessing for your Christmas tree!



The Lifelong Faith Formation Dept sold Advent Wreath kits this fall, and here are some of our families with their finished wreaths. Hope your Advent season is a holy, healthy one for you and your families!

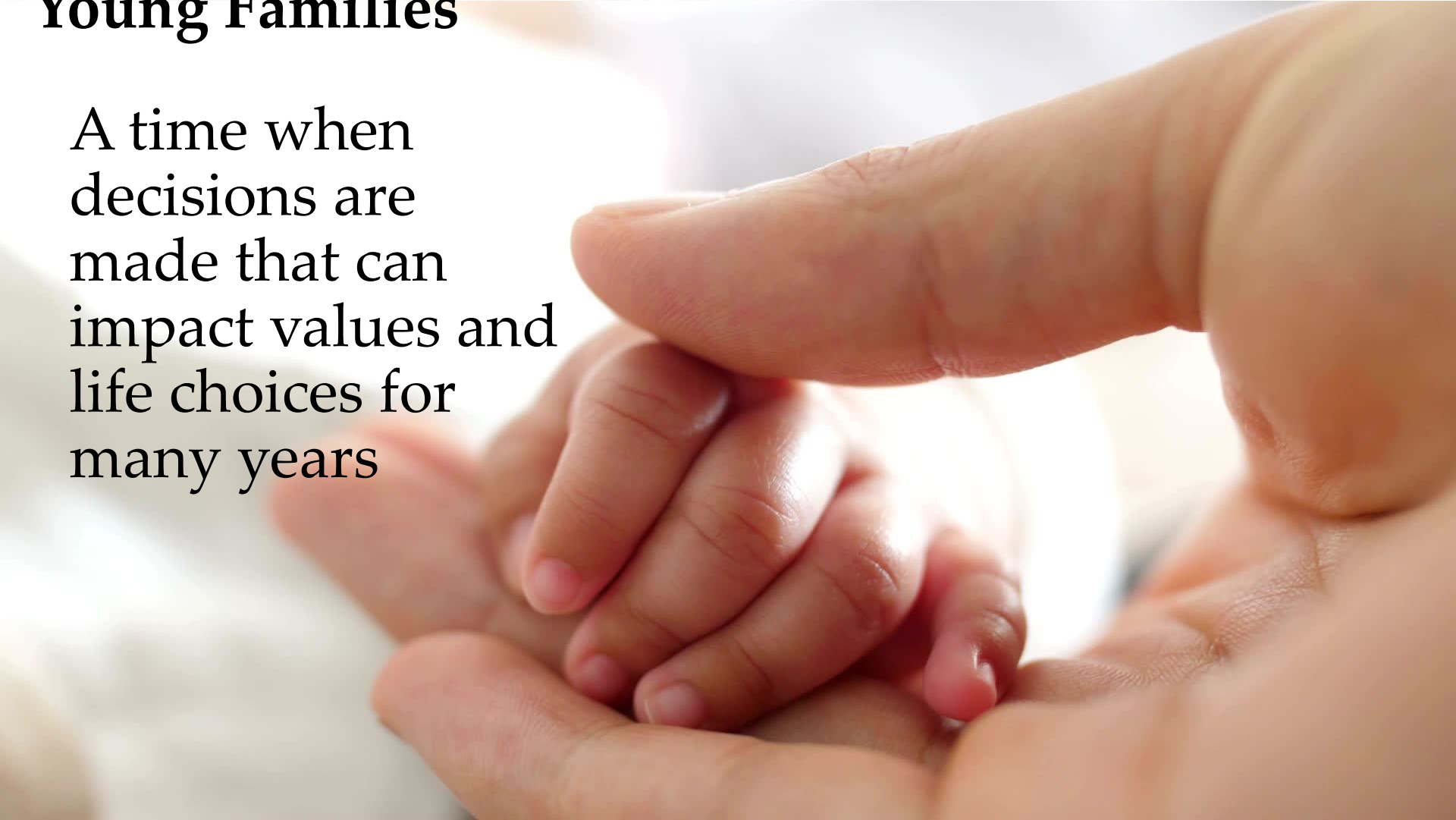


Practical Strategy #5

Pay Special Attention to
Young Families

Young Families

A time when decisions are made that can impact values and life choices for many years



Child Care



Mass Bags



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

For Children Age 4 to Grade 1
At the 9:00 Mass



High School & Middle School Helpers are always welcome!



O Come Little Children!

December 16
Following 9:00 Mass (10:15-11:45)
In Fellowship Hall



Families with young children
(1 - 6 and siblings!),
join us for a fun-filled program of story
and songs, celebrating our
Christmas story,
make an ornament to take home and
enjoy refreshments with friends,
new and old.

Fish, Fun, and Friends

“Come Follow Me”

**For children ages birth – 6 along
with parents and siblings.**

Dinner at 6:00pm

Activities from 6:45 – 7:45

Cost: \$15 per Family



Mardi Gras





Mardi Gras



Guardians & Angels

Preschoolers and their Adult
Wednesday,
Meet in the Childcare Room

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY OPEN GYM

MONDAYS | 9:30 - 11 A.M.

Next Date: October 24



Parents and Families need
Intergenerational relationships

Changing Paradigm?

Parish and
Parents
(Maybe)

To
Partnership
with Parents

What can **YOU** do to foster family engagement?

- Use the assessment tool for review your parish culture in creating a climate and practices that encourage family involvement
- Educate yourselves and parish leadership about faith transmission
- Assess how you are supporting family engagement staff and budget



Collaborative Leadership...

Move out of silos



“...do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and their children after them.”

Deuteronomy 4:9

What do we want for every Catholic child?

