

Engaging Families in Faith Formation During These Times

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Menu or Network Planning

- **Consider multiple ways to engage your families.**
- **Important to have an ongoing process to assess how effective are the strategies**
- **Continually consult with parents with children the age in your ministry**
- **Be prepared to adapt if health conditions change or methods need adaptation**

Gathered- Families gather in groups as large allowed by directives with accommodations to safe social distancing

Virtual- Using digital tools for effective online programming: synchronous (real time programming) and asynchronous

Blended- Using a combination of gathered and virtual approach

Small Group Gathered- Match families in predetermined pairs or small groups (3-10 families) to work together on activity or session the parish designs

In Home Formation- Material sent home or explained over email or internet that family does as a family unit at home.

Formational Resources

The Pastoral Center <https://pastoral.center/>

John Roberto www.LifelongFaith.com and <https://vibrant-faith-catalyst.mn.co>

Digital Tools to Make Online Programming Effective

(You don't need expensive)

- **A Website:** To create faith formation website use a drag-and-drop website builder like Weebly, Wix, or Squarespace that doesn't demand HTML programming skills.
 - **Video Conferencing and Streaming:** To convene online groups you can use Zoom or Google Meet. To live stream programs and presentations you can use Zoom, Facebook Live, or YouTube Live.
 - **Online Learning Platform (Learning Management System):** To create an online "classroom" for sharing content, texts, videos, projects, and interacting with each other use Edmodo or Google Classroom.
 - **Facebook Groups:** To incorporate an interactive environment for online programs and blended programs use Facebook Groups.
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- **E-Newsletter:** To create a weekly e-newsletter to communicate the faith formation activities and schedules for the week or month use MailChimp, Constant Contact, or Flocknote.
 - **Texting:** To send reminders, links to activities on the faith formation website, and short activities (prayer, Bible verse, etc.) using a texting app like GroupMe, Telegram, WhatsApp, or Viber.
 - **Social Media:** To communicate and share faith forming content, and to invite people to share what they are learning and doing through videos, images, and text use social media platforms, like Facebook and Instagram.
- For information about these digital tools go to the **Tools** section on www.LifelongFaith.com.
- Extended Programming (asynchronous)**

Develop online programming to extend an event like Sunday worship (live streamed or in the church building), a church year season, an extended program (VBS, mission trip) into the daily lives of people. Design a webpage for the event and curate a variety of age-appropriate resources around the event: prayers, reflections/readings, video, podcast, art, music, creative activities, conversations, action ideas, and more.

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