

# **Engaging Families: A New Opportunity!**

Dr. Kathie Amidei  
July 29, 2020

# Engaging Families During These Times

## A crisis is defined as:

a crucial or decisive point or situation —  
a turning point

Depending on the **crisis**, it **could** be  
the **opportunity** to undertake new  
thoughts and implement alternate  
strategies

What are the opportunities for family  
faith formation at this time?



*In every crisis  
lies the seed  
of opportunity*

# Why is Engaging Families Is Important and Is more important than ever!



## **We made promises at Baptism!**

### **Church Teaching:**

This childhood religious awakening which takes place in the family is irreplaceable... Indeed, family catechesis precedes... accompanies and enriches all forms of catechesis.

(GDC, # 226)

### **Research:**

Parents are the single most profound influence on the faith of their children.

**Faith anchors families in God's love and strength.**

**Families need *faith nurture and support* in these times!**

“In times of profound change,  
the learners inherit the earth,  
while the learned  
find themselves  
beautifully equipped to deal  
with a world  
that no longer exists.”

*Eric Hoffer*



# We minister in the midst of QUESTIONS & UNCERTAINTIES...

*The reality:*

Engaging families was challenging...

yet, the importance of family in faith  
development is probably more  
significant than ever.

Our mission is to determine  
strategies to engage families.



# What Opportunities Might You Try To Engage Families?

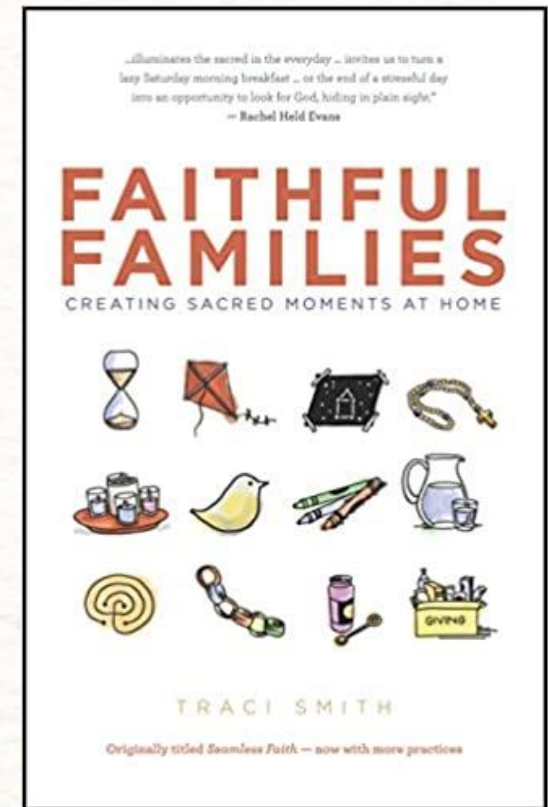
- *Materials, Ideas, Resources-*  
They Can Do at Home
- Gathering-  
In Small Family Groups In-Person
- Gathering-  
In Small Family Groups Virtually
- Guest Speakers Offered Virtually
- Parent-centered Opportunities
- Child-centered Opportunities



# Back to School Prayers and Blessings for Families by Traci Smith

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- A Prayer for Back To School A Prayer for At Home (Remote) Learning
- A Prayer for Blended Learning
- Prayer for Homeschooling
- A Prayer in the time of COVID-19 A Prayer for Putting on a Mask
- A Prayer for Washing My Hands A Prayer for Healers
- A Prayer for Scientists and Other Leaders
- A Prayer for Living Day by Day
- A Prayer for When I'm Out of My Routine
- A Prayer for When I'm Tired and Overwhelmed
- A Blessing for the School Space Inside the Home
- A Blessing to Start the Day A Blessing to End the Day



# What We Don't Want to Lose!

- Systematic Comprehensive Curriculum
- Intergenerational Experiences of Faith
- Relationships between Families
- Relationships with the Church
- Ritual/Sacrament Preparation/Celebration





COVID-19 crisis provides opportunities and grace  
Thomas Reese [Religion News Service](#) 7/27/2020

*Everyday family life is seriously affected by the coronavirus as we experience something akin to a months-long snow day. Being confined to home can be an opportunity to bond more deeply with those we love, but this requires conscious efforts to nourish family relationships. Listening is essential. Good communication and common activities build a group of individuals living under the same roof into living cells that nourish one another. If we learn these skills now, they will continue to nourish family life after the pandemic.*

# When Parents and Children are in Different Places: Lessons from St. Monica and St. Augustine

Wednesday, August 26th at 6:00pm in Church

With Al McCauley and  
Dr. Kathie Amidei

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We will conclude  
the event with  
Eucharistic Adoration



*While Catholics cannot celebrate the Eucharist at home, they can celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word.*

*Reading and discussing the Sunday Scripture readings is a great way for Catholic families to grow together in their faith.*

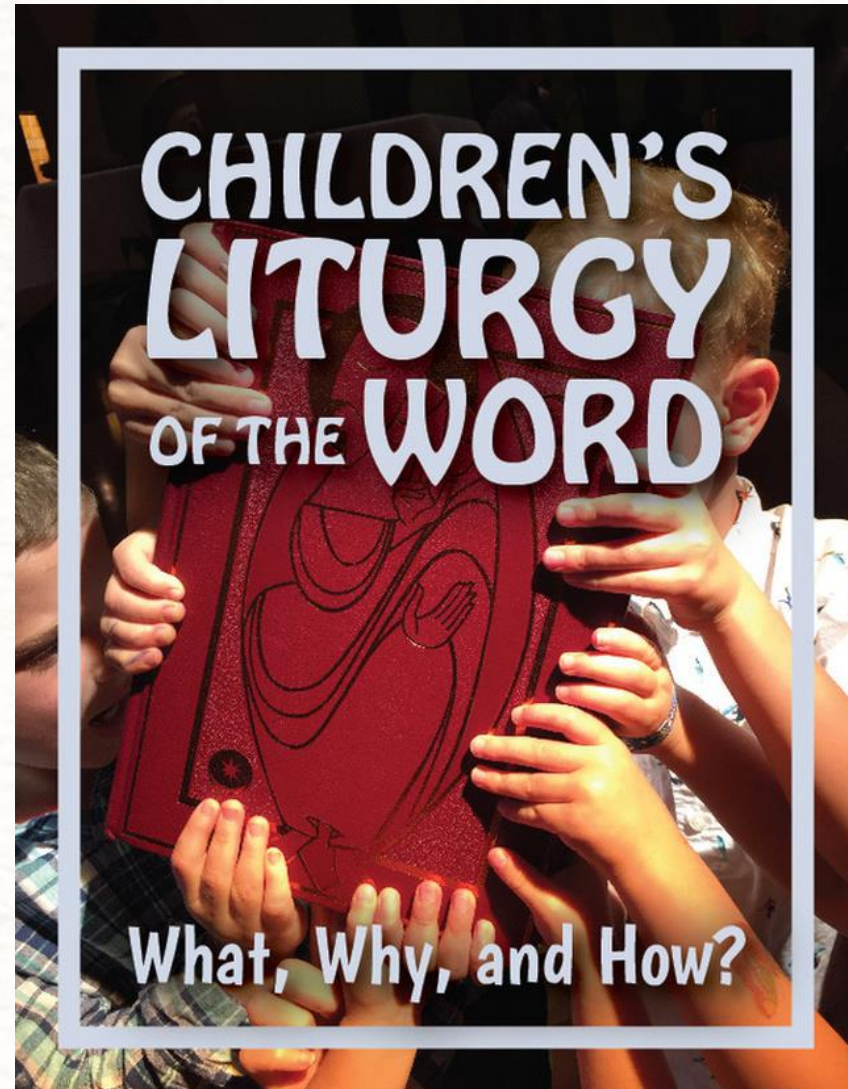
*It may be time to revive old devotions such as the family rosary and grace before meals. These are good practices that should continue after the pandemic.*



# The Pastoral Center

**Growing Up Catholic -  
Children's Liturgy of the Word  
What, Why, and How?**

Written by Paul Canavese



*The coronavirus is wreaking havoc on the United States, but it also is giving us opportunities that we should not miss. Grace is always present, even in the worst of situations. God is present in the worst of times.*



# Family Faith Formation Toolkit

**Bible Stories for Life - Nine  
Learning Stations**

[https://www.vibrantfaithprojects.org/  
intergenerational-programs.html](https://www.vibrantfaithprojects.org/intergenerational-programs.html)



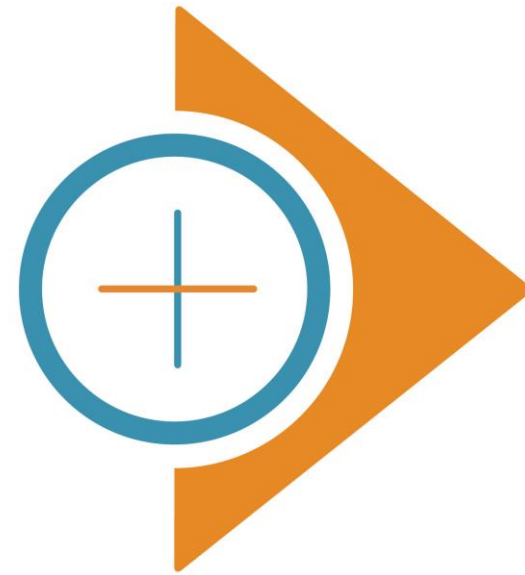
# + Cross-generational Session

## **Bible Stories for Life**

Here is an intergenerational session for all members of the congregation exploring stories from the Bible that help us get along with one another at home and navigate our lives in the world. This session is designed to be conducted in about 90 minutes, and can be adapted for a shorter or longer timeframe.

## **Introduction**

Each Bible Story station in this session will expose you to a different Bible story that teaches something different about how live as a family, and how to navigate your life. Some Bible Story stations are more appropriate for younger families, while others are better for teen families and/or adults. Visit as many of them as you can!



vibrant**faith**

# I. Gather

## Activity Plan

1. Invite all participants to gather as one large group. Welcome them all and provide this introduction:

The Bible is filled with great stories. And these stories can teach us a lot about how to be faithful to one another as well as how to be faithful to God.

We want you to become more familiar with the Bible and with the stories that it contains. This session is just a start, but hopefully a good start. After this session, we encourage you to go to your Bible and find stories that pertain to what's going on in your life.



## II. Grow

### Stations

2. Explain that each family/group will be invited to visit the Bible Story stations that you have set up, and engage in a particular Bible story activity at each station. They will receive a printed copy of the Bible Story activity that they can take home with them. Tell them that each activity will take about 10-15 minutes to complete.
  
3. Before sending people off to stations, have a helper from each station give a brief teaser/introduction to each activity, especially indicating the preferred audience group for the activity:
  - Everything We Need (Young Family): By exploring Psalm 23, children learn that God cares for them like a shepherd and gives them everything they need. A stack of cards with simple words and pictures helps connect the promises in the Psalm with the child's daily life. Together, family members plan ways they can be generous to others just as Go Ask participants to form family groups or small groups.
  
  - Family Bonds (Teen Family): Being a part of any community changes a person. Families are special communities that come with their own blessings. There is also a cost to being part of a family. What does it mean to be part of your family?

## III. Go Forth

Conclude the session by following the adapted steps of the Vibrant Faith @ Home activity Prodigal Journey as follows.

### Needed

- YouTube video “The Prodigal” by The Skit Guys online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyVIF24u5dY>.

## Activity Plan

1. Show “The Prodigal” by The Skit Guys online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyVIF24u5dY>.

Consider the following questions:

- When have you wished you could do something about your “boring, everyday life”?
- What do you think would happen if you dropped everything and did exactly what you wanted right now?
- Why do you think it’s hard for parents to let go of their kids?
- When have you been tempted to blame your parents for something you did? When have you done the same with God?
- How have your parents been there when you needed them? What about God?

Think of a living parent, guardian, or mentor of yours.

Find a way to get in touch with him or her via phone, email, Facebook, or another way.

Share this **prayer** together:

*Holy creating, loving, parent God,*

*You have given each of us earthly parents to love us and raise us.*

*You have given each of us your unconditional more-than-parental love.*

*When we are tired, weary and unsure, we can help each other, and we can pray to you.*

*When we are excited, happy and joyous, we can share with each other and we can praise you.*

*Help us remember in the hard times and in the wonderful times that we are on this earth to share with each other and love each other, and that you are with us each and every moment of each and every day. Amen.*

# Weaving faith into Everyday Life

## Christine V. Hides



# Weaving Faith into Everyday Life

Christine V. Hides

- **Online Sunday school** Hosted on Zoom, it will begin 30 minutes before our worship live-stream. We will continue until school resumes in our area.
- **Midweek groups Online:** Similar to our usual format we will have games and prayer. We are working on some fun games we can play online- stay tuned.
- **Children's Worship Notes for Live-stream (NEW):** A [printable tool](#) to help older kids follow along during online only worship.
- **Virtual Lunch and Story (NEW):** We will begin a live, daily story time with children's ministry staff. The fantastic new book, [Little Mole Finds Hope by Glenys Nellist](#), is first on our list.
- **Take Home Activities:** Supplies for [Resurrection Gardens](#) and [Holy Week boxes](#) will be available for pick up on a table outside the church beginning on the days we were going to do them in Sunday school.
- **Faith at Home Activities:** Simple prompts sent via email will include a Bible story, creative response activity, and prayer. Parents are asking for things they can do with extended time home. These will be curated to help families incorporate new, everyday faith rituals into their lives. [Play will be emphasized.](#)

# Be there for people

*I don't believe tensions have been this high since March. Maybe you can't gather groups together right now, but there are ways to let families know that their church community sees the challenges they are facing. Some simple ideas to show up in a socially distanced world:*

- Send cards to all families.
- Make back to school yard signs
- Meet one on one outdoors.
- Set up an outdoor prayer station.
- Post encouraging messages on social media.
- Share this booklet of prayers from Traci Smith.

*We also need to learn new ways to sustain the community when we cannot congregate in parish meeting rooms and halls. In the past... staffs have protested that they had no time to develop a parish social media presence; today they have no choice.*

*For example, parishes can use Facebook or other social media to create small Christian communities to reflect and pray over the Sunday Scriptures even if the Eucharist is not available. Book clubs can do the same. Spiritual direction and conferences can be conducted over Zoom.*



# Teach Anywhere. Learn Anywhere. Connect Anywhere



Welcome to  
**zoom academy**

SUMMER 2020

July 29 -30, 2020

[Build Your Schedule](#)

Don't forget to  
update your profile



K-12 Summer 2020 | July 29-30

Learn best practices and innovative ways to use Zoom from K-12 thought leaders.

# Easter Season at Home Rosary (praying the rosary!)

## LEARN!



About the history  
& meaning  
of the Rosary.

## ACT!



Make a Rosary  
at home.

## PRAY!



Pray the Rosary with  
Parishioners.  
Choose the  
mysteries of the day.

# Easter Season at Home

Introduction my Zoom  
message recorded

Make a rosary- send the  
pictures for the website

Pray the rosary

There are so many fun ways to create a rosary. Here are some ideas to get you started.  
On the next page are detailed directions for making a Rosary with beads.



Wooden Beads



Candy



Cereal



Peas & Carrots!



Candles



Cupcakes



Paper Chain



Popcorn!



Stones



Plastic Pony Beads



Painted Paper Path



**Be creative! Have fun!  
Send us your pictures:**

[fonsa@stanthony.cc](mailto:fonsa@stanthony.cc)

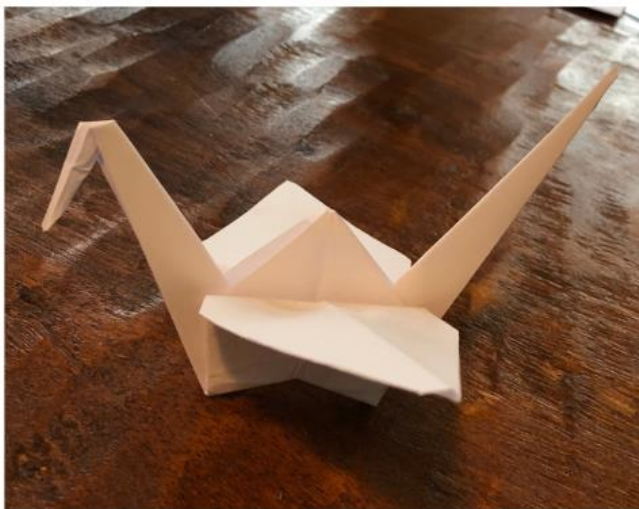


# LEARN!



About Jesus' greeting to his disciples.

# ACT!



Make a symbol of peace.

# PRAY!

And the PEACE of GOD,  
which surpasses all  
comprehension,  
will guard your  
hearts and minds in  
Christ Jesus

Philippians 4:7

Pray for Christ's  
peace in your heart.

# LEARN



## Peace be with you.

What comes to mind when you hear that phrase? Many of us think of Mass and are ready to respond, “And with your spirit” That phrase is also found in the scripture readings for many of the Stations of the Resurrection, or Via Lucis. Have you prayed that yet, during this Easter Season? They’re a good way to reflect on the many appearances of Jesus to his followers between Easter and Pentecost.

So often, when Jesus appeared, he began by saying, “Peace be with you.” He says this in each one of the scripture citations for Stations, 6, 7 & 8. When Jesus says ‘peace be with you’ to his friends, it is more than just a way to reassure them. Jesus was offering them *his* peace— the peace that surpasses all understanding. The peace that comes from God alone and settles deep into our hearts, giving us a place of refuge and stability amidst any storms we encounter. The peace that comes from knowing God is with us.



But, to truly accept that kind of peace, we need to know that we are right with God and with one another. This is where the scripture passage for the 7<sup>th</sup> Station in the Via Lucis is so helpful. Jesus institutes the Sacrament of Reconciliation when he says to the apostles, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.” This wasn’t the first time Jesus talked with his followers about forgiveness; he included it in the prayer he taught them, the Our Father, and he told them to forgive one another ‘seventy times seven times’ – meaning as often as needed!

So, peace and forgiveness are the themes for this week’s Easter Season at Home. Fun facts:

- The word **PEACE** can be found 477 times in the Bible
- The word **FORGIVE** is found 81 times (**FORGIVENESS** another 81 times and **FORGIVEN** 60 times)

You can see exactly where they are found on the Vatican’s website:

- [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/\\_FA.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_FA.HTM) for the word **Peace** and
- [http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/\\_I/22.HTM](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_I/22.HTM) for the word **Forgive**

How can you and your family to experience a little of that forgiveness and peace of Christ? Try an examination of conscience followed by some time in prayer. Here we offer a couple resources for an examination of conscience.

- For teens & adults: [USCCB’s Examination of Conscience in Light of Catholic Social Teaching](#)
- For children: [An examination of Conscience based on the 10 Commandments](#)
- For teens: [An examination of Conscience based on the 10 Commandments](#)

Prayers and songs to go with this are found in the PRAY box for this week.

**The Peace of Christ be with you**

# ACT

JESUS CAME AND STOOD IN THEIR MIDST AND SAID TO THEM,  
*"Peace be with you."*

~JOHN 20:19

Here are some ideas of activities you can do with your family:

## 1. Peace Mobile



Find online or draw a **dove** on cardstock. Then on 5 smaller pieces of paper (or ½ an index card), write 5 ways you can share peace with others, either at Mass, in their families or in the community. Then hang these 5 cards from the dove with ribbon or string, and hang the whole mobile up in your home, to remind you to live peacefully. You could also make a family mobile, in which each family member writes one way they can share peace with others.



## 2. Peace Crane

For those a little older, try doing this origami, folding paper to make a crane, a symbol of peace in Japan and throughout the world.

<https://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-make-a-Paper-Crane-1/>

Or to watch a video with directions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfnyopxdJXQ>

## 3. Sing Peace Like a River

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2R4D6ghaD8>

# PRAY



## PRAY FOR PEACE

*Forgiveness enables us to have peace in our hearts. We seek forgiveness from each other and from God at every Mass, during the Penitential Rite. Sometimes we use this prayer called the Confiteor. Another prayer we use at the Sacrament of Reconciliation is the Act of Contrition. We don't have to limit these prayers to Mass or Reconciliation!*

*Here is a prayer you can do as a family or an individual.*

- ✚ *Play this beautiful song, [Dona Nobis Pacem](#) quietly in the background*
- ✚ *Sit for a moment and open your heart, asking God for peace*
- ✚ *Together, read aloud the Confiteor and/or the Act of Contrition*
- ✚ *Open your heart to God's mercy and love while you listen to the rest of the song*
- ✚ *Share a sign of peace – a hug or handshake or kiss with your family*

### Confiteor

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault [strike breast 3x] in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do; and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

### Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

Amen.

Grant us peace, Lord!



# MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY CONTINUES!

Keep your Middle School Youth connected to our faith community even while you stay Safe at Home.

- Weekly Zoom Meetings for fun
- Weekly Bible Study Zoom Meetings
- Resources







# Near and Far

How Do We Stay Connected?"





# Staying Near to God



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# NEAR & FAR: How Do We Stay Connected?

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## Appreciation & Affirmation

Every day, show your child how much you love them with your **WORDS**, with your **TOUCH** & with your **THOUGHTFULNESS**.

### WORDS:

- ~ Remember that how you say something is as important as what you say.
- ~ Never waste an opportunity to tell someone that you love them.
- ~ Find opportunities and ways to compliment your family members at least 2x per week.
- ~ When talking about your family members, be positive and enthusiastic.
- ~ Tell your children often how terrific they are and that you trust them.
- ~ Tell your spouse that they're your best friend... and mean it... and treat them that way.
- ~ When you arrive home from work, let the first thing you say brighten a family member's day!
- ~ Let your children & spouse hear you saying complimentary things about them to others.
- ~ Compliment even small improvements.
- ~ Whenever you say I love you, look the other person in the eye and mean it.
- ~ Encourage anyone who is trying to improve mentally, spiritually or physically.
- ~ Write a letter of affirmation every birthday, or keep a journal for your children as they grow up.
- ~ Mail your loved one a note of appreciation, but cut up the note like a jigsaw puzzle.

### TOUCH:

- ~ Hold your child's hand every chance you get. The time will come all too soon when he/she won't let you.
- ~ No matter how old you get, hug and kiss your mother whenever you see her.
- ~ Give homemade coupons for hugs, and tell them to use them whenever they want.
- ~ Take your loved one's hand and plant a kiss in their palm. Tell them it's for use any time they feel alone.

### THOUGHTFULNESS:

- ~ Save an evening a week for your spouse/children/family.
- ~ Attend your children's athletic events, plays and recitals... and find the good in them.
- ~ Use a favorite picture of a loved one as a bookmark. Tell them about it and let them help you pick it out.
- ~ Remember that no time spent with your family is ever wasted.
- ~ Every year, celebrate the day you and your spouse had your first date.
- ~ Let your children see things you do for your spouse that lets them know how much you treasure him/her.
- ~ Buy a favorite snack/beverage/song to share. Stream a favorite movie.
- ~ Do a family member's chore for them as a gesture of appreciation.
- ~ Get up extra early one morning and take a family member out to breakfast for one-on-one time together.
- ~ Set up a scavenger hunt in your house where your family member tracks down clues to find a special gift.

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*God, we ask you to move our hearts to help us to listen to our children, communicate with our children, teach our children right from wrong and be a good role model for them, educate our children in mind, body and soul, work to provide a stable family life for our children, pray for—and see God in—our children and in all children, and speak out for my and other people's children's needs. Amen.*



HOPE IS A  
MUSCLE

Fr. James Keller, M.M., Founder, The Christosphere

Hope looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst.  
Hope opens doors where despair closes them.  
Hope discovers what can be done  
instead of grumbling about what cannot.  
Hope draws its power from a deep trust in God  
and the basic goodness of human nature.  
Hope 'lights a candle' instead of 'cursing the darkness.'  
Hope regards problems -- small or large-- as opportunities.  
Hope cherishes no illusions, nor does it yield to cynicism.  
Hope sets big goals and is not frustrated  
by repeated difficulties or setbacks.  
Hope pushes a head when it would be easy to quit.  
Hope puts up with modest gains, realizing that  
'the longest journey starts with one step.'  
Hope accepts misunderstandings as the price  
for serving the greater good of others.  
Hope is a good loser because it has the divine assurance of final victory.

## Reflection Questions

1. What does hope mean to you? What does hope look like?
2. How does it look for a life to be "hopeless?" What would a hopeless world look like?
3. What robs YOU of hope?
4. When was the last time you felt hopeful? How did it feel?
5. Who/what makes you feel hopeful right now?
6. How can you cultivate moments of hope in your life?
7. How can you honor your hope in small ways, even when it's hard?
8. Who is someone in your life who needs your hope?
9. What is it about today's world that makes you most long for hope?
10. What inspires your hope in God and God's future?

# HOPE IS A MUSCLE

- Share one small "next step" that you feel God is calling you to take in the next 7 days.
- Take action this week to write down ways you see God on display in your life.
- Pray that God puts you in the path of someone so you can point them to the real hope of God.
- Look for ways to bless others around you.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

-Jeremiah 29:11

REJOICE IN HOPE,  
BE PATIENT IN TRIBULATION,  
BE CONSTANT IN PRAYER.

~ROMANS 12:12

# Opportunities? Adaptations?

**If you were intentionally physically engaging families... How will you continue?**

How will you adapt to:

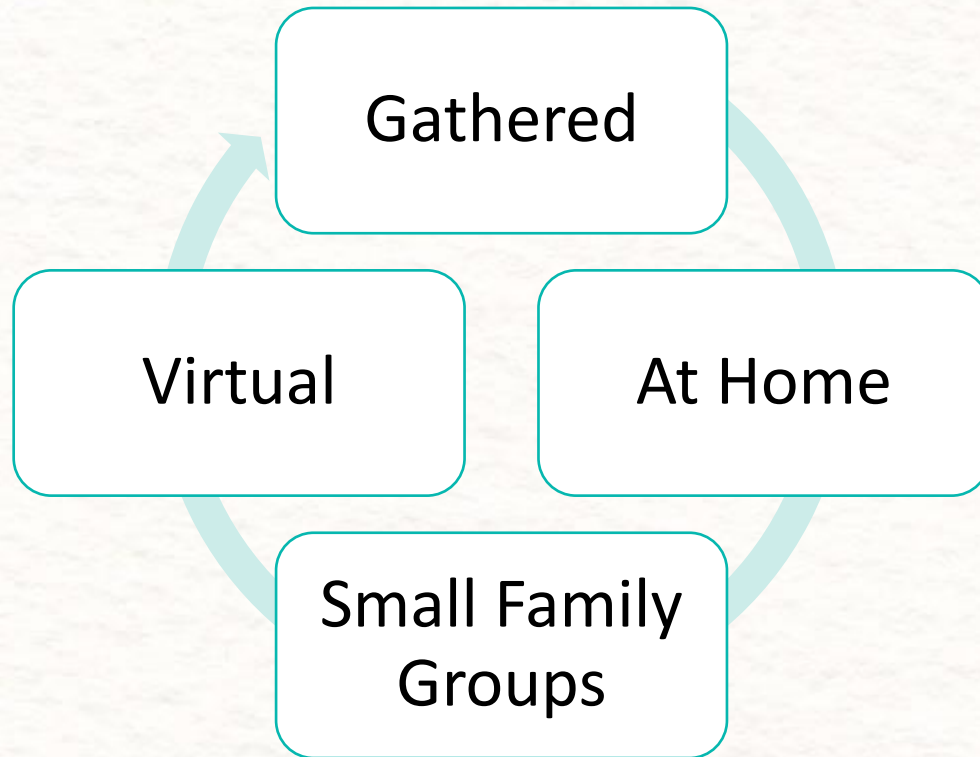
- Social distancing
- Group size
- Safety protocols
- Cleaning and disinfecting procedures
- Entering and exiting
- Materials

...And how will we remain  
effective, engaging and relevant?





# Designing Faith Formation



- Online and Blended Approaches
- Prepare for physical settings when conditions allow for in-person gathering
- Inform families of alternate possibilities
- Watch educational trends
- Consult parents

### **TRADITIONAL**

Gathered in person with  
online content

### **EXTENDED**

Gathered in person with  
online content used to  
prepare and/or extend  
learning

### **FLIPPED**

Learning begins online.  
Gathered time is used for  
discussion and/or projects

### **MOSTLY ONLINE**

Learning and discussion are  
online with occasional  
opportunities to gather

### **FULLY ONLINE**

Online experiences with no  
gathered experiences

- **Family Ministry is always about partnering with parents!**
  - We are in a supportive role in catechetical ministry so think how can I use this time to cultivate that relationship stronger
    - If we are sending things home- think about how we can integrate some kind positive reinforcement for those who follow through. Incentive? Feedback?
    - Augment age-specific comprehensive systematic curriculum with ways parents can be supportive
    - If you do Virtual learning, consider make it very simple. Light a candle. Pray Hail Mary to begin. Read short Scripture.
    - Virtual learning, allow time for interaction, not just delivery of curriculum.
    - In person may need to consider social distancing.
    - I know what you taught but what did they learn?

# Virtual Family Program Plan

## Fruits of the Holy Spirit

**Objective:** To learn about the fruits of the Holy Spirit: reflect on ones you have and need in your own family

**Setup Needed:** Bible

List of families in your group

**Welcome/ Prayer Introduction** The significance of “fruits”

Why they are important to the Church

Why we care about this

Where you find them in Scripture



## **Small Groups (session guided by Facilitators)**

**Welcome! Could someone please read that Bible citation for all of us? Call on one family/person to read it aloud.**

**Now, let's introduce ourselves Thanks, everyone! The Fruits of the Spirit are the ways in which we see the Spirit at work in one another. Some of the fruits are easy to see in one another, and sometimes we are aware that we wish we had more of a particular fruit of the Holy Spirit. Look at the Bible citation again, with your family. Maybe you'll *want* to re-read those verses. Then, as a family, discuss these 2 questions: *Which fruit of the Spirit do you see most reflected in your family? Which fruit do you think would be especially helpful, if you had more of it?* Please mute yourself while you discuss with your family, and when you are ready to share, just raise your Zoom hand. I will put those questions in the Chat box in case you'd like to see them. Let's take a few minutes to discuss.**

Put questions into Chat box.



After 5 minutes or so, say: **Okay, it looks like we're ready to go! Let's share our answers to the FIRST question: Which fruit of the Spirit do you see most reflected in your family?**

Call on each family. Invite them to share examples if there's time.

**Thank you! Isn't it great to recognize those fruits of the Spirit in one another? The second question was: *Which fruit do you think would be especially helpful, if you had more of it?* We can pray for one another, so I will ask each family to share which fruit they would like the others here to pray for, for them to have more of. Call on families by last name, making sure to get to all of them.**

**We'll close with this prayer on the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Your response is: \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you so much for joining us today for our Virtual Family Program! We look forward to seeing you next time.**

Dear friends,

Thanks so much for joining us tonight for our first sample virtual Family Program session! We hope you enjoyed learning about the Fruits of the Holy Spirit with your family and others.

We need your **feedback** on how you think it went, so please reply to this email to answer these questions:

1. What worked best for your family?
2. What really didn't work well for your family, if anything?
3. What did you most enjoy?
4. Did you find anything difficult or cumbersome?
5. Any suggestions of your own?

Here is the **follow-up** on the gifts of the Holy Spirit we told you about: Whenever you observe someone practicing one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, write it down on a small piece of paper (or a **picture of a piece of fruit**—see attached) and put it in a mini “fruit bowl” on your kitchen counter. See if your family can fill up your fruit bowl by the end of the summer!

Attached are the closing **prayer** from our session, so you can pray it at home, and a sheet with images of fruit you can print out, cut, and write on for that fruit bowl.

Thank you again, and we look forward to hearing back from you.  
It will really help with our planning for the coming year of Family Program!

1. Well organized and nice to use camera to see all those involved. Having mute until people spoke was good to keep things organized and clear to hear. Good use of break away sessions as well.
2. Hard to get full interaction by all family members but I think that was more about the short period of time (trial process) than anything else. Otherwise all good.
3. The personal aspect of doing this vs not doing things because of restrictions with face to face meetings.
4. All good – We use video software for work and school all the time so very comfortable.
5. None



## What will make this work?

- Keep content focused and clear
- Know your objective and state it for the participants
- Facilitator needs to be prepared, pleasant and keeps a sense of humor
- Know Zoom protocol like muting to reduce ambient sound
- Call on families with older children first
- Have a visual aid like a handout with fruits of the spirit send ahead of time
- And/or send a follow-up resource
- Include simple prayer

## What Not To Do This Year

This is **not** the year to create a family program session consisting of an interpretive liturgical dance, performed to a Hamilton-like original score, followed by a hilarious yet theologically meaningful skit, culminating several hours later with punch and homemade cookies for all. 😊



# What To Do This Year

- Focus on spiritual fundamentals
- Whatever you do, in person or virtual, keep it short! Families don't need anymore "busy work." Keep activities you ask them to do targeted and meaningful
- Remember many families are challenged and even struggling at this time. Be kind. Be patient. Be helpful.
- Keep it **Simple, Short, Safe**



**QUESTIONS**

This time poses the greatest leadership crisis any of us have faced. It can be a moment of amazing creativity, though it also is going to be a time of unavoidable pain and loss. We will discover that while many resources are suddenly unavailable to us, the most essential resource is still available, and the most important reality has not changed. The reality is that God has called us to a time like this, given us a mission and a community to serve alongside, and **we still have the most important resource, which is trust in the context of love.** Everything depends on how quickly and thoroughly we move to build on that resource, starting today.

(Andy Crouch, Kurt Keilhacker, Dave Blanchard)