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Models of Lifelong Faith Formation

Four Models of Lifelong Faith Formation

Part 1



**Catherine LaVecchia,
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Director of Lifelong Learning

Church of the Presentation

Upper Saddle River, NJ



Prayer

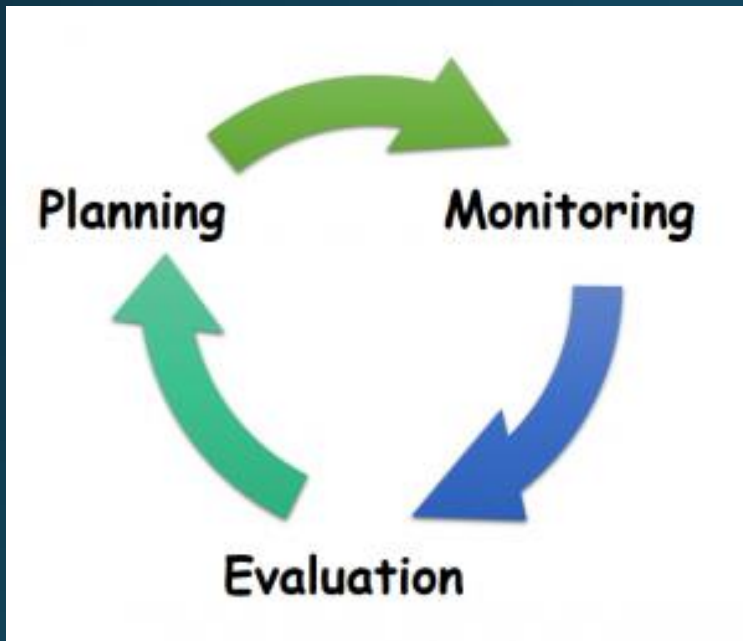
To you, O LORD, I lift up my
soul,
my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be disgraced;
do not let my enemies gloat
over me.
No one is disgraced who waits
for you...

Make known to me your ways,
LORD;
teach me your paths.
Guide me by your fidelity and
teach me,
for you are God my savior,
for you I wait all the day long.

– Psalm 25



WHY?



- Why create and have a model of Lifelong Faith Formation?
- A clearly articulated model helps *everyone* understand the purpose and goals of lifelong faith formation and how your church is implementing them. Your model will promote maturing in faith at all ages and stages of life.

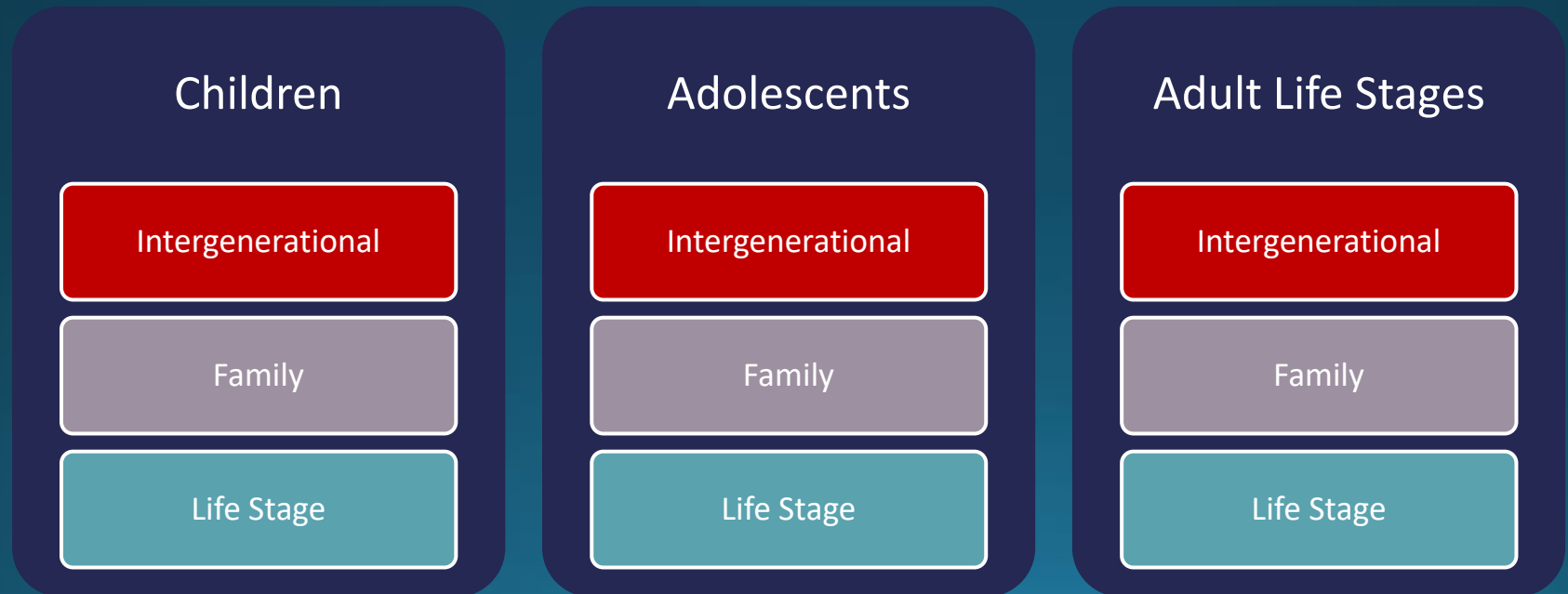
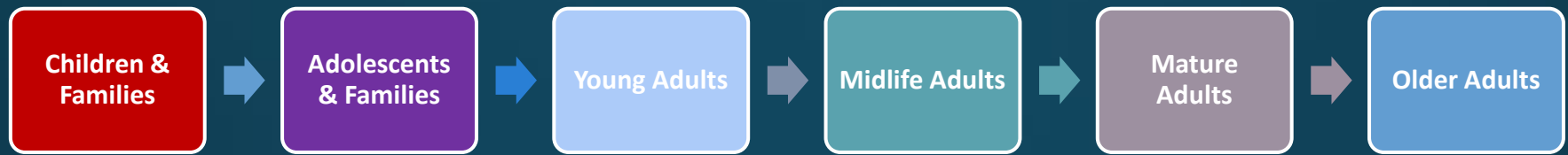
4 Models of Lifelong Faith Formation

Each of the four models or illustrations that we will look at has a distinct focus to guide the development of lifelong faith formation:

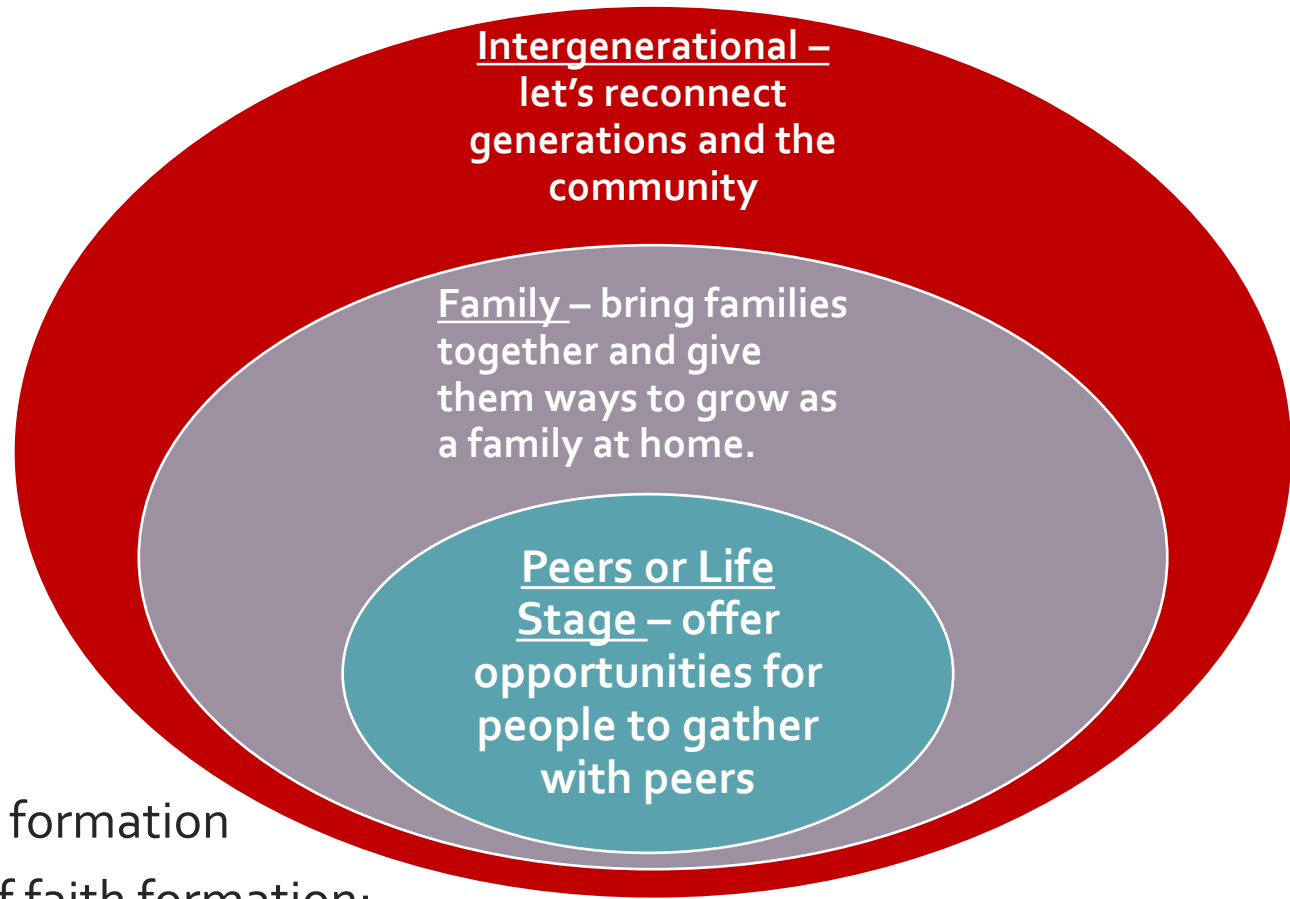
- (1) Life-stage
- (2) Thematic
- (3) Intergenerational
- (4) Worship



Three Kinds of Faith Forming Experiences Built around Life-stages and Holistic in nature



Types of Programming



A model of lifelong faith formation
integrates these types of faith formation:

- ❖ **Intergenerational,**
- ❖ **Family and**
- ❖ **Life stage**

into a *whole*, providing direction for promoting maturing in faith
through all of the ages and stages of life.

Goal Directed Model #1 –

Lifestage

In this model, Faith Formation is developed around **each stage of life**:

- *children and families (0–10 or 0–5 and 6–10),*
- *adolescents (11–19),*
- *young adults (20s–30s),*
- *midlife adults (40s–50s),*
- *mature adults (mid 50s–mid 70s),*
and older adults (75+).

(Many churches combine several adult stages, adults.)



What does this look like?

- **Core experiences in the Lifestage Model:** Life Stage or age-related faith formation experiences, celebrations and networks

Supporting experiences in this Model: milestone celebrations such as sacraments and life transitions as well as networks and community-wide shared experiences for things like marriage prep, baptism prep, confirmation, First Eucharist, etc.

- Each stage of life incorporates the three essential faith-forming experiences:
 - Intergenerational relationships, activities, and church life and events;
 - Family faith practices at home, and
 - Life stage activities to address the needs and situations and spiritual journey at each life stage.

Goal Directed Model #2 –

Thematic

In this Model, faith formation is built around an annual (or seasonal) church-wide theme that becomes the central focus of the whole community.

The theme can emerge from the lives of people, the life of the church community, events in the community and world, the Bible and theology, Christian practices, and more.

Faith formation opportunities on a theme can include intergenerational gatherings, family programs, life stage programs, online programs and activities, and more.



What does this look like?

- **Core experiences:** monthly, annual or seasonal theme with formation for all ages

Possible Supporting experiences: life stage celebrations and milestone networks

- Shared experiences for all ages
- Multi-year curriculum of themes that apply to all ages
- Themes can be annual or can overlap
- Programming can vary –can be Scripture based
- Theme acts as an “umbrella” over all catechetical and formational initiatives

- Programming can vary and focus on:
 - Scripture
 - Prayer and spirituality
 - Worship and Sacraments
 - Morality
 - A pastoral letter
 - Christian beliefs and practices
 - The Lectionary readings
 - Church feasts/seasons
 - Catholic Social Teaching/Social Justice issues

Goal Directed Model #3 –

Intergenerational Experiences at the Center

Core experience: All ages experiencing Faith Formation together as one; community focus

Possible Supporting experiences: life stage experiences and milestone celebrations and networks

In this model, faith formation is developed around keeping families together, encouraging parents in their role as the primary educators of the faith, as well as gathering the parish community. Grandparents are often very involved in this model.



What does this look like?

- Could have a multi-year curriculum of themes that apply to all ages or use one theme per year.
- Programs are conducted monthly, bi-weekly or weekly and offer shared faith formation experiences for all ages, such as a parish Mission, family faith sessions, seasonal programs like family stations of the cross, etc.
- Programming can vary and focus on
 - Scripture
 - Prayer and spirituality
 - Worship and Sacraments
 - Morality
 - Christian beliefs and practices
 - The Lectionary readings
 - Church feasts/seasons
 - Catholic Social Teaching/Social Justice issues

Goal Directed Model #4 –

Worship at the Center



Core experience: Sunday worship

Possible Supporting experiences:
life stage and milestone experiences
and networks

In this model, faith formation is developed *around* Sunday worship—the scripture readings, sermon, and ritual—with a weekly or monthly theme to focus formation.

For churches that are lectionary-based, the cycle of scripture readings forms the basis for the themes that can be addressed in faith formation.

What does this look like?

- Centered on Sunday Worship – with Scripture readings, Sermon/Homily, and Ritual
- Lectionary cycle or a Worship series/ Sermon series forms the basis and structure of themes that can be addressed
- Programming can vary and focus on
 - Scripture/ a book of the Bible
 - Prayer and spirituality
 - Worship and Sacraments
 - The Liturgical Year
 - The Lectionary readings
 - Church feasts/seasons
 - Church history/ Biblical History

Examples of Models in Practice

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Upper Saddle River, NJ



Lifestage-at-the-Center Model

Play and Worship (ages 3-5) and Young Moms groups

Family Faith Formation (grades 1-8)

High School Youth Ministry (grades 9-12)

Young Roots (College aged ministry)

Young Adult Ministry (20's, 30's, 40's)

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities (all adults)

Older Adults (Seniors Ministry) (Mostly ages 60+)

Family Faith (grades 1-8 and parents)

Mail - Catzel LaVecchia - Outlook x Cardinal Tobin: Refusing to deal x Lifelong Faith Formation Models x Presentation's Family Faith Form x +

presentationfff.org


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PRESENTATION'S
FFF
FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

PARISH CATHOLIC
GREAT CATHOLIC
PARISH

My Chapters Login

FFF/JH Updated Calendar of Events, [click here](#)
January Gathering, attend one:
January 11,12,13,14 at 6pm or January 15 at 3pm




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presentationfff.org

Apps Gmail YouTube Maps

Reading list




Need Help? 


Click [HERE](#)

Call: 201-327-1313 ext 815 or ext 832
Email: familyfaith@churchofpresentation.org

How to Navigate Our Website

Resources 

Prayers
Saints
Music
Did-U-Know
Activities (Act-Out)
First Eucharist
Lessons from our Gatherings
Presentation TV

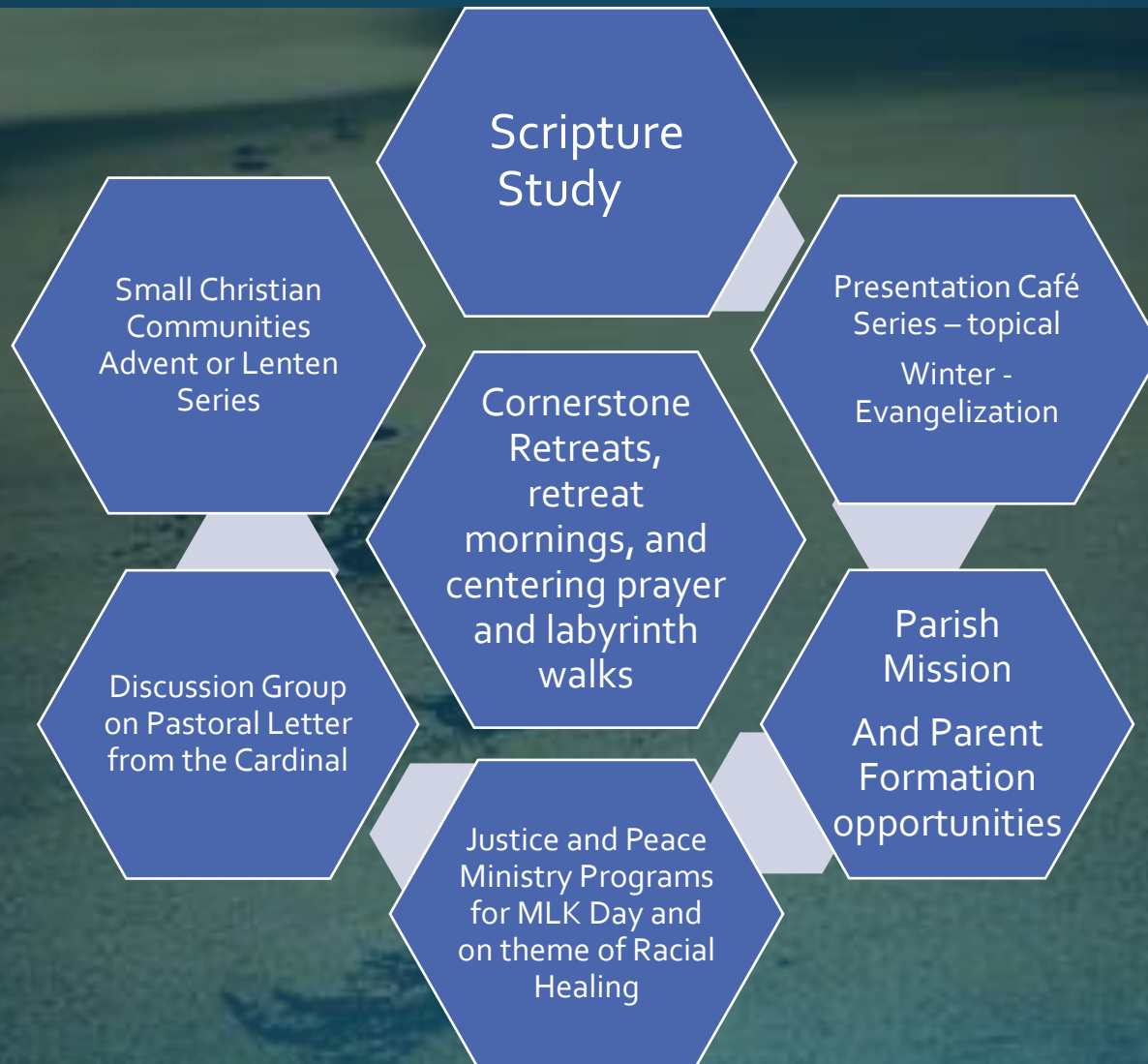
Links 

2021-22 FFF (Gr 1-8) Calendar of Events (Updated 10/13/21)
[Change Password](#)
[Church of the Presentation](#)
[2021-22 FFF FAQs](#)

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Our program combines online lessons the children do at home with their parents, and monthly Family Gatherings. We also offer community events, and resources for prayer, learning and fun activities.

Example of Adult Faith Formation Opportunities



Examples of Programming for Youth

Youth Ministry Sunday Gatherings

Young Roots/Spiritual Explorer program with mentors

Parish Mission

Day retreat and Weekend retreats

Inter-parish programming – social and spiritual

Service Opportunities – Local Mission weeks/ International Mission Trips

In Parish Service Opportunities for Junior High students – ie Soup Supper

Living Stations of the Cross/ Holy Week activities

Liturgical Ministries – Choir, lector, eucharistic Minister

Programs for Parents and Teens (speakers)

Weekly emails and social media outreach

Examples of Supporting Milestones and Lifestage Network Programs and Opportunities



Sacramental Preparation

- Baptism Prep/ Gather with other young families
- First Eucharist – Family Retreat experiences
- Confirmation – Sponsor/Candidate sessions and Family receptions
- Marriage Prep – Pre-Cana weekend with Mentor couples



Celebrations

- Receptions post Sacraments for families
- Wedding Anniversary Dinner and Dance
- Blessings and programs for Life transitions such as retirement



Other

- Blessing of the Backpacks for all kids going back to school
- Blessing of the keys for new drivers
- Blessings of those returning to college
- Volunteer Appreciation Party

Examples Thematic at the Center Programming

NEW BOOK.pdf x Adult Faith Formation Fall 2021 F x +

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1 of 2

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*Come to the Table
of Justice*

"Faith and Racial Healing"

Join us for this in depth 8 week session from *Just Faith* sponsored by our Ministry for Justice & Peace. This group has 2 different online groups - Monday mornings and Tuesday evenings beginning with a retreat on October 2. Registration information is on the parish website.

*Come to the Table
of the Lord*

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

INQUIRY PERIOD BEGINS SEPT 26

Curious about our Catholic faith? Have you ever been baptized? Or have you been baptized and want to come into full communion with the Church? Or maybe you have a friend who is seeking? RCIA is for anyone who is thinking about joining the Catholic Church. Inquiry sessions are for anyone who wants to learn more! Find more information on the parish website. We look forward to having you!

Why Come to the Table?

Why come to the table? Jesus had a thing about tables. He loved them, and he sat with so many people sharing a meal, talking, and giving Himself to them. It is our heritage almost, to do the same! We gather here at "the best table in town" which provides the setting for the divine sacrifice and gift of the Eucharist. We come together in less formal ways to share a meal, a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and we celebrate milestones and revisit memories and share life together. At all of these tables, all of these sacred spaces, Jesus is with us.

Join us this year as we explore what it means to *Come to the Table*. Join us as we explore the ordinary sacred ritual of gathering around the table in our homes and together as a parish community. Join us for formation opportunities that invite us to come to the table of justice, peace, fellowship, joy and love. Together, let's see how Jesus reveals Himself to us. He knew the graces of the table and used it as sacred space as He proclaimed His kingdom... and He wants us to do the same.

Worship with us.
Saturdays 5pm
Sundays 7:30, 8:30, 10, 11:30am and 6:30pm



**271 West Saddle River Rd.
Upper Saddle River NJ 07458
www.churchofpresentation.org
201-327-1313**

**More learning resources at
www.presentationathome.org**

**Catzel LaVecchia
Director of Lifelong Learning
catzechurchpresentation.org**

*Church of the
Presentation*

**Opportunities for
Adult Faith Formation
Fall 2021**

*Come to the
Table*



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catzele@churchfpresentation.org

*Our Parish Mission with
Steve Angrisano*

Come to the Table
of Grace

All are welcome to pray with us daily as we focus on Mary, the mother of Grace. We will learn about Mary's titles and the meaning behind each one. Join Therese **live each evening at 7:30pm** on our Parish Facebook page or PresentationTV)

Bible Study

All are welcome to gather for our weekly Bible Study. This group meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm in October and November. See the bulletin for details.

"The Chosen" Film Festival

SPONSORED BY ROOTS®PRESENTATION
SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Join us as we watch this amazing series about Jesus and those whose lives were forever changed by Him. Existing SCCs are welcome as are those interested in finding a new group!
Dates: Wednesdays, **Oct 6, 13, 20, 27 at 7pm.**
Registration is on the parish website.

PRESENTATION CAFE SERIES -
RETURNING TO GRACE

Join us for a three week series on Cardinal Tobin's Pastoral Letter on the Eucharist: **Returning to Grace**. We will learn about the beauty of Christ's Eucharistic presence, the importance of the Sabbath and what it means for us to be the Body of Christ. We will meet **Thursday mornings at 9:45am - 11am November 4, 11, 18**. Register on the parish website.

Come to the Table
of Fellowship

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITH SHARING AND PRAYER

WOMEN'S 7:30AM GROUP
(THURSDAYS) AND
WOMEN'S INSPIRATIONAL HOUR
(NOON ON TUESDAYS).

All women are invited to join us for these opportunities for fellowship, faith sharing and prayer. Details are on the parish website.

MEN'S 6:00AM WEDNESDAY GROUP

All men are invited to join us for fellowship, faith sharing and prayer on Wednesday mornings. Details are on the parish website.

CENTERING PRAYER RETREAT

Join us on **Saturday Sept 18th** for a special morning of Guided Meditation, Centering Prayer, and Lectio Divina. We'll close with a Labyrinth walk at noon, weather permitting. This ancient way of praying is spiritually uplifting and can easily be adapted as a solitary prayer method in your own busy life. Take this time for YOU! Just show up!

Examples Thematic at the Center Programming - Winter

Adult Faith Formation WINTER 2022 FINAL FINAL

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Come to the Table of Justice

"Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King
Monday, January 17th
10am-12noon OR 7:00-9:00pm via zoom

This virtual event will immerse participants in the faith, theology and peaceful teachings of this remarkable servant. Registration information is on the parish website.

"Creating Racial Justice" Morning of Reflection
Saturday, February 26, 2022
9:30-12noon

Join us for this inspiring and challenging morning sponsored by our Ministry for Justice & Peace. Registration information is on the parish website.

Come to the Table of Prayer

Praying with Drums
Wed, Feb 2, 2022 7:00pm

Join us for an evening of prayer with Tommy Hayes who will facilitate a drumming circle. This will give us the opportunity to celebrate community and life while praying through rhythm and music. It can also help alleviate stress within your mind and body resulting in improved physical and mental well-being. See more info on the parish website.


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Church of the Presentation

Opportunities for Adult Faith Formation Winter 2022

Come to the Table



Winter Seasonal Programming based on our Theme

Adult Faith Formation WINTER 2022 FINAL FINAL


2 / 2 | 80%

Come to the Table of Life

Women's Retreat

"Juggling Life on One Cup of Coffee"
Saturday, Jan 22, 2022
9:45-12noon in the Church

Join us for this wonderful morning of reflection led by Speaker Colleen Kelly-Rayner. Colleen is a dynamic speaker and retreat leader who has a quick wit and energetic style. She will help us focus on Christ as we face the many challenges of life. All are welcome!! Register on the website.



Cornerstone Retreats

Men's Cornerstone - TBA (March or April)

All men are invited and encouraged to sign up for this powerful overnight retreat experience. Come hear beautiful witness talks and engage in deep faith sharing together. Give yourself the gift of this 26 hour experience! You will not regret it. Registration information can be found on the website.

Women's Cornerstone - Mar 11-12, 2022

Please consider giving yourself this wonderful retreat experience! You will love the faith sharing and fellowship with other women. This retreat does NOT have an overnight component. For details, see the parish website. All are welcome!

Come to the Table of His Word

ROOTS Lenten Series

Sponsored by Roots@Presentation
Small Christian Communities

Join us for some small group faith sharing for Lent. Existing SCCs are welcome as are those interested in finding a new group! Register on the Parish Website.

Dates: TUESDAYS, March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5 at 7pm.

Presentation Cafe

The Contagious Catholic!

Explore the art of Practical Evangelization together! This series will use Marcel LeJeune's book to learn about sharing the Good News in our everyday life. This group meets for 6 weeks on TUESDAY evenings on ZOOM beginning January 18, 2022. Invite a friend! Register on the website.

Scripture Study

All are welcome to gather for our weekly Scripture Study of St Paul's First letter to the Corinthians. This group meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm beginning on January 13, 2022. The first week is a "no obligation" Orientation and series overview. See the bulletin for details.

Come to the Table of Fellowship


Opportunities for faith sharing and prayer

Women's 7:30am Group (Thursdays) and Women's inspirational hour (noon on Tuesdays)

All women are invited to join us for these opportunities for fellowship, faith sharing and prayer. Details are on the parish website.

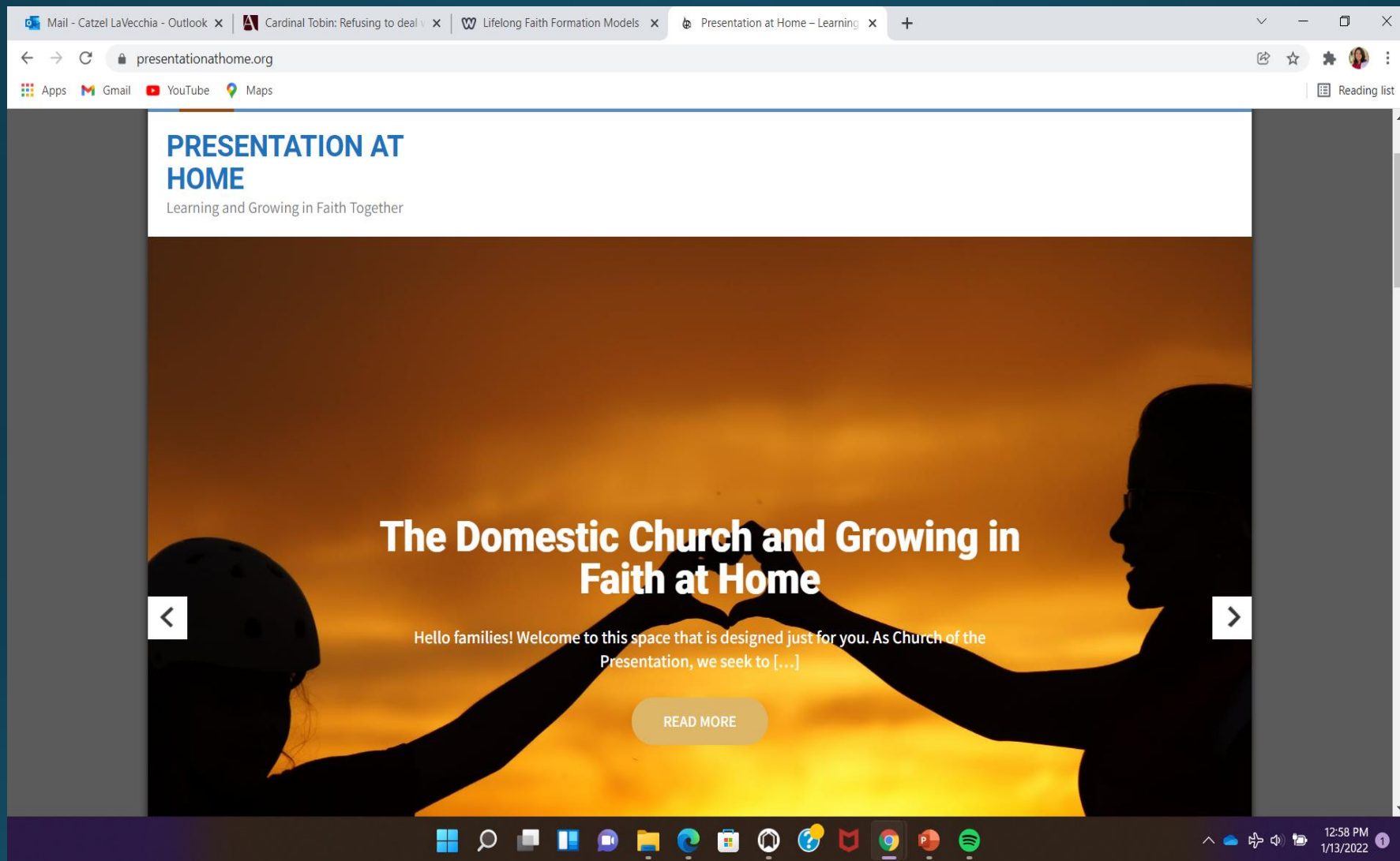
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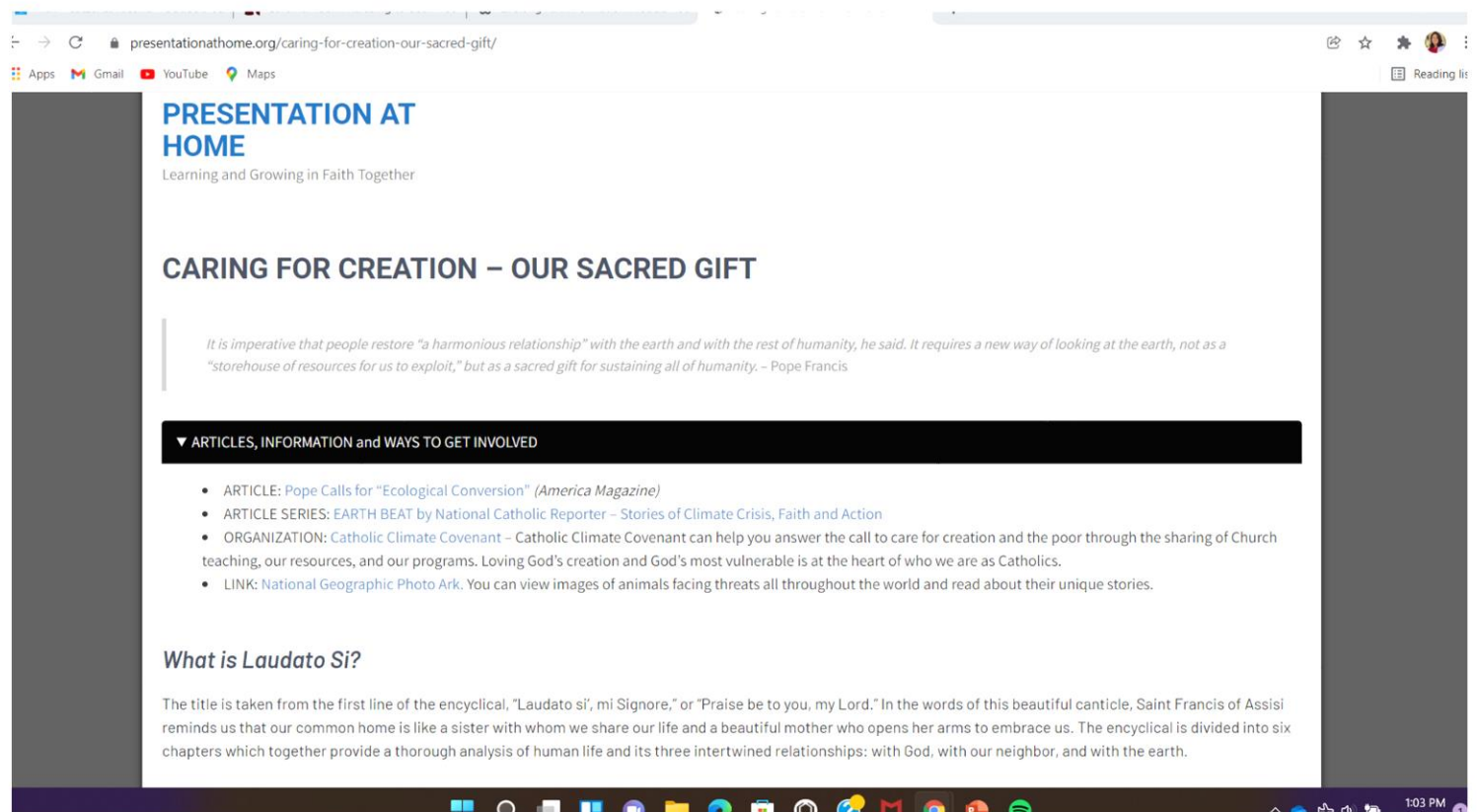


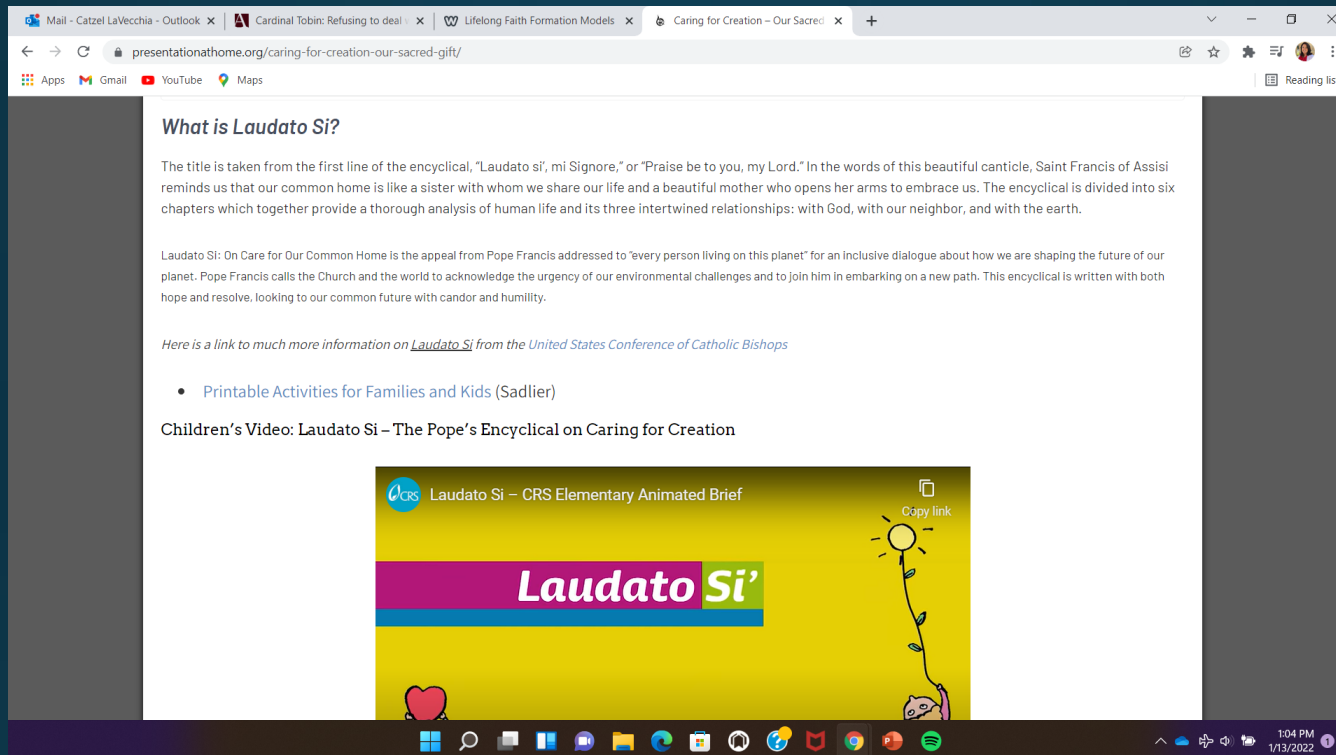
Centering Prayer Retreats

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February 5, April 2



Website of curated resources and learning opportunities for all ages





- Specific Learning Activities for our Focus in the Fall on Caring for Creation

The Nuts and Bolts of creating a plan

Part 3



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training

4. How do you put a plan together?



Be Informed by research on forming faith

Focusing on goals for **faith maturing instead of classes and programs**

Embracing **holistic faith formation**: intergenerational, family, and life stages

Scheduling in **seasonal menus** with a variety of programming: content, formats, times, spaces

Programming with **three models & three spaces**: online, hybrid, and physical

Personalizing through topic or theme based **playlists** of faith forming content and experiences

Evaluate and get feedback along the way

Begin with Goals for Maturing in Faith

Jesus

- Developing and sustaining a personal relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ

Discipleship

- Living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making the Christian faith a way of life

Bible

- Reading and studying the Bible—its message, meaning, and application to life today

Teachings

- Learning the Christian story and foundational teachings of the Christian faith and integrating its meaning into one's life

Praying

- Praying—together and by ourselves—and seeking spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines

Goals for Maturing in Faith

Morality

- Living with moral integrity guided by Christian ethics and values

Serving

- Living the Christian mission in the world—serving those in need, caring for God's creation, and acting and advocating for justice and peace.

Worship

- Worshipping God with the community at Sunday worship, ritual celebrations, and the seasons of the church year

Engaged

- Being actively engaged in the life, ministries, and activities of the faith community

Gifts

- Practicing faith in Jesus Christ by using one's gifts and talents within the Christian community and in the world

Holistic Faith Formation - Example

Intergenerational

- Participate in several celebrations of Church year feasts & seasons
- Join the community in a service project
- Participate in a leadership role or church ministry
- Participate in a Parish Mission

Family

- Develop a faith practice each season: prayer, Bible reading, Sabbath, etc.
- Celebrate church year seasons at home
- Participate in two whole family programs at church
- Participate in two service projects as a family

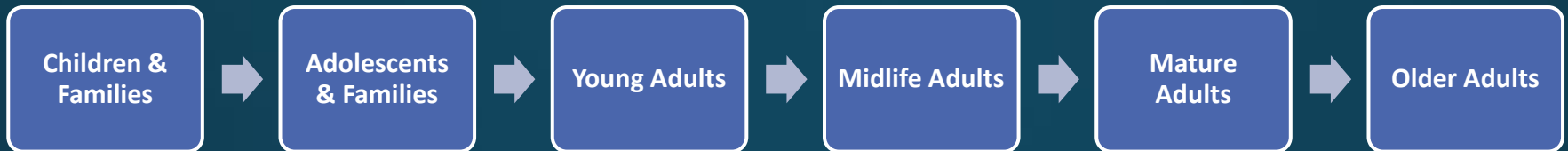
Life Stage / Peer Specific

- Select one's participation in courses, workshops, retreats, vacation Bible school, service projects and mission trips, etc.

D. Plan monthly, Seasonal or yearly menus

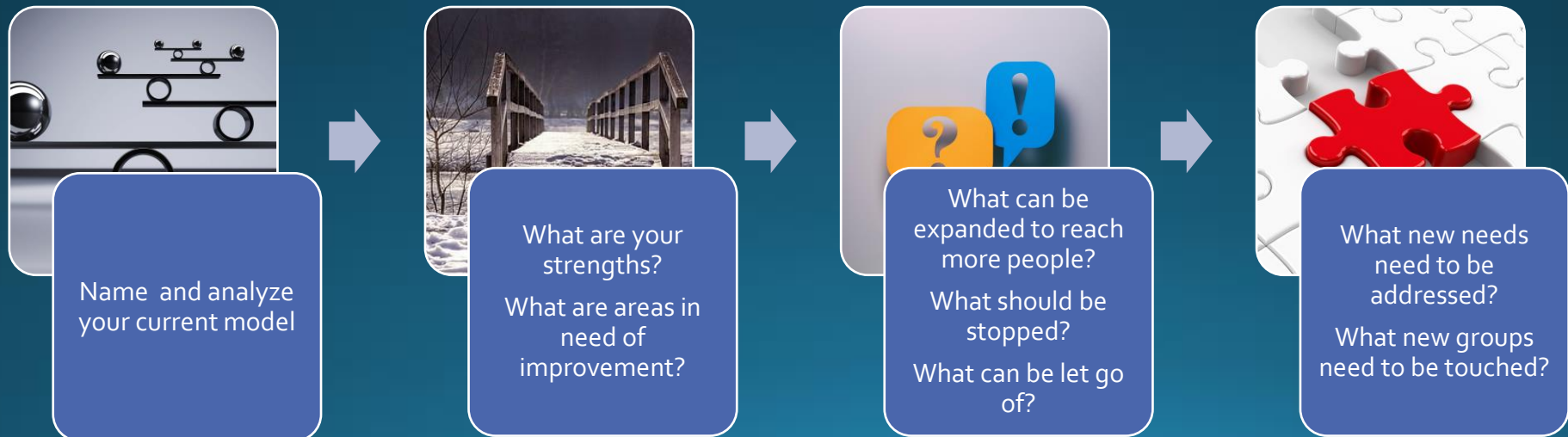
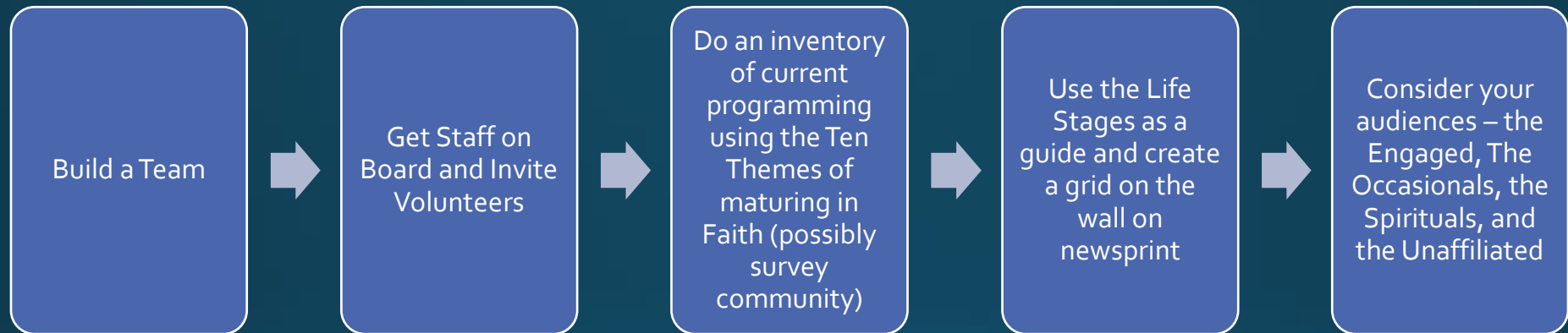
Seasons: Sept – Dec Jan – April May – Aug

Variety of programming: content, formats, times, spaces

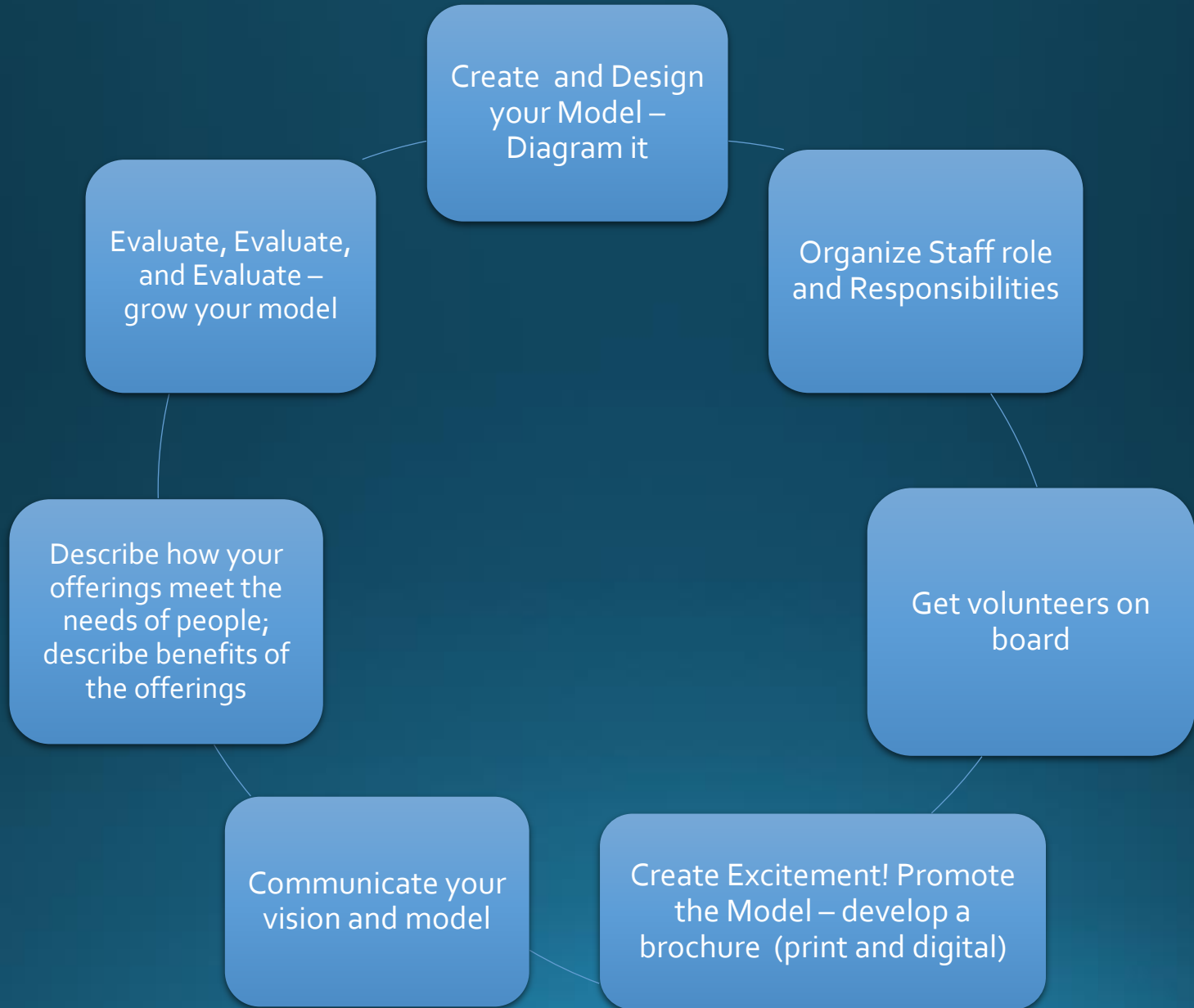


Programming	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4
Life Issues				
Spiritual Formation				
Scripture				
Theological Themes				
Justice & Service				
Seasons				
Prayer & Worship				

Plan and Process



Moving Forward





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www.churchofpresentation.org

www.presentationathome.org

Thank you!