



PATHWAYS

formation suite

Open House Leader Guide



Faith and Family Life
Catholic Ministries

OPEN HOUSE

An Open House or “Come and See” is a great way to introduce the *Pathways Formation Suite* resources to your parish.

Consider hosting it on a Sunday after the Masses and inviting all parishioners, with special encouragement for faith formation families. Since the resources represent a new model for faith formation, grandparents and older parents may be interested in stopping by as well. This is also an opportunity to look for people to join the accompaniment team.

Set-Up:

- Set up tables inside your parish hall or in your gathering space outside of the church.
- Set each of the resources/boxes out on tables covered with some type of table covering.
- Next to or behind each resource, frame or use easels to display the PDF explanations that correspond to each resource. These prints are included as a printable PDF below. They are designed to be printed in an 11x17in format.
- Consider printing out the Prayer for Families and having them available under the Pathways print PDF. A printable PDF of the prayer is included below.
- Have staff and team members on hand to engage with parishioners/faith formation families. Make sure they are familiar with the resources and this new model of family faith formation. The Leader Learning Center on our website is a great resource to learn our language and understand the process.
- Consider offering some kind of hospitality. Serving donuts, bagels, fruit cups, coffee, etc. is always appreciated.
- Below you will also find a script you can use as a pulpit announcement to introduce *Pathways* to the parish and invite people to the Open House. It provides both the purpose and picture or the why and vision of *Pathways*. We have also created a short video that can be used to present the first part of the script. You can view and download that video [here](#). Be sure to add the final invitation at the conclusion of the video live in person, which can be found at the end of the script.
- Having a table or two with coloring sheets and simple crafts supplies can provide a space for children to be engaged as parents are looking at materials and having conversations about the *Pathways* vision.
- The Open House is also a great time to find people for your accompaniment team. The descriptions provided can be put on a table that includes a sign-up sheet for people to add their names and contact info. It is helpful to have a schedule in mind for gathering those who are interested. Having someone quickly reach out after the Open House will help with continued engagement.

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Hello, my name is _____ and I am _____ .
We are partnering with Faith and Family Life Catholic Ministries to bring the *Pathways Formation Suite* to our parish. *Pathways* is designed to help our parish transform the way we form and accompany others. This intentional process more closely aligns with the example Jesus left us in the Gospel. Jesus met people in their concrete circumstances and gradually led them into the fullness of faith. This process is intended to lovingly support and form parents to confidently take up their rightful place as the primary educators of their children, through at-home and at-church experiences. The goal is to produce faith that remains 5 and 10 years after children leave the home, ultimately continuing as a lifelong pursuit.

I invite you to imagine for a moment what this could look like. Imagine feeling the support of a community who shares similar values. Imagine children having meaningful and positive experiences at-church with other children. Imagine parents participating in intentional conversations of faith with their children that have the capacity to transform their life at home. Imagine beautiful, accessible, and quality tools that help lead families in these conversations step by step. Imagine hearing the stories of others who share similar joys and struggles, sitting side by side at tables. Imagine feeling empowered through experiences that build the confidence needed to live out faith in daily life. Imagine encountering Jesus and being renewed in faith, hope, and love. Imagine faith becoming not just one more thing to do, but instead the roadmap for the journey of life.

We are blessed to have the opportunity to partner with this innovative ministry as we begin to make a new way forward for families with the *Pathways Formation Suite*. Imagine footsteps, returning home.

(If using this as an invitation to an Open House, continue below.)

We invite you to come learn more about *Pathways*, see the beautiful materials, and discover your part in this mission to serve the families of our parish. Join us in the _____ after Mass. Please pray that this process will produce fruit that will remain.

Prayer for Families

God, we bring you all of the families of our parish community. It is a tough time to be raising little ones. We ask that you bless and strengthen the parents, giving them peace and purpose in the midst of so many distractions. Bless each home, each family, each parent, and each child.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who was sent to live in a family and knows the love that is shared there. Amen.

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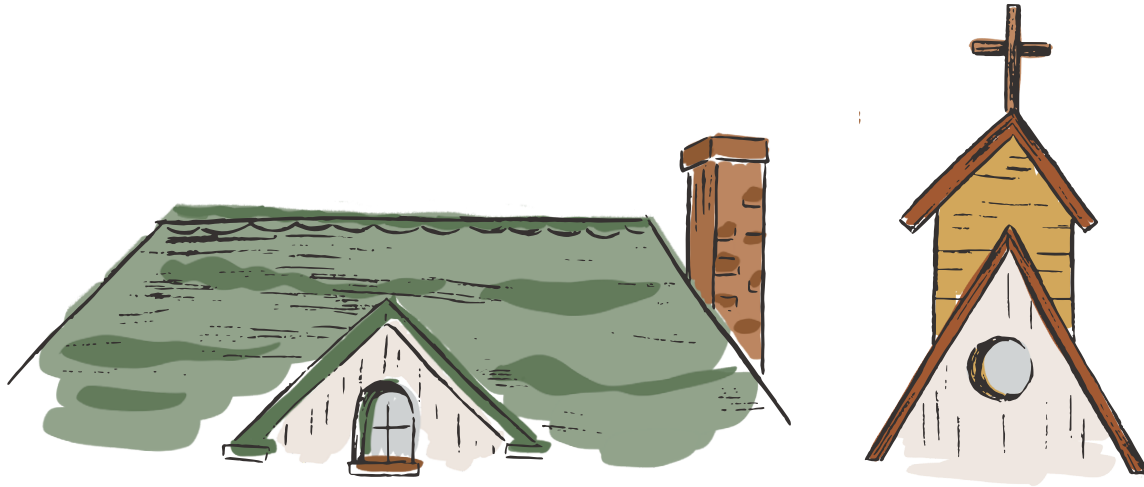
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PATHWAYS

formation suite

Pathways is an integrated and family centered formation suite designed to facilitate a personal encounter with the Trinity and sustain a lifelong development of faith.

Hands-on, experiential, and engages the entire family.

Empowers and equips parents to teach, share faith, and lead prayer.

Embeds faith formation into the daily routine of home life.

Invites parents to grow in their own faith.

Accessible to families at different places in their faith journeys.

Please take a “Prayer for Families” card and join us in praying for the success of this mission.



Faith and Family Life
Catholic Ministries

Interested in getting involved? Become a Part of Our Accompaniment Team

Roles and Responsibilities

Facilitator

Facilitators help lead at-church Sessions for parents or teens from the front of the room. They are warm, confident in speaking to groups, natural storytellers, comfortable being vulnerable, and have a good sense of humor.

Companion

Companions walk with parents or teens by supporting the sharing that happens in small groups during at-church Sessions. These people are encouraging, communicative, insightful, and love to draw the best out in others.

Catechist

Catechists walk with children by facilitating learning, playing, and faith sharing with children during at-church Sessions. These people are young at heart, flexible, playful, warm and able to manage a group.

Hospitality

These people help set a warm, inviting, and well prepared place for families to gather. They are creative, intuitive, have servant hearts, and pay close attention to details.

Intercessor

Intercessors are praying for the families participating in faith formation. These people are constantly talking to Jesus, understand the difficulties facing families, and are able to hold the joys and needs of others close to their hearts.



• S E E K •

Seek is presented through at-church experiences and extended through at-home activities. Parents and children/teens meet separately and come together for the closing prayer. This experience is meant to feel like a small retreat in which parents and children/teens are renewed in a positive expression of faith.

Parents and children are invited to experience the kerygma, the good news of the Gospel again! To hear it, reflect on it, and share it with others on a similar journey.

Parents will experience the content and hands-on experiences as part of a small group. This will not be overwhelming, but instead a safe place to explore faith and life.

As parents are ministered to, their children/teens will enjoy fellowship with other children/teens as they participate in activities and teaching that follow similar themes, all aimed at pointing them to the love of Jesus.

Parents will engage in interactive prayer experiences with their children/teens at the end of each Session. The intimacy of God's nearness will be felt by all.

Families are encouraged to enter this experience open and hopeful, knowing they are held in prayer by our community.

“When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart.”
-Jeremiah 29:12-13



Root is presented through both at-home and at-church experiences. The material is meant to provide a foundation of faith for families to rest on. As families come to understand more about who God is, they can better build a relationship with him.

Parents are the biggest investment in their child's faith. *Root* is an investment into the faith of each parent. For many parents it may have been sometime since they engaged in the Scriptures and teachings of the Catholic faith. With fresh eyes many new insights will be revealed as they study the Creed.

Root for Parents is a reflection on the first part of the Catechism broken into Mini-Series and written in accessible language. Small group discussion with other parents, during at-church Sessions, will bring wisdom and practical life experience to the studying.

Root for Teens, while similar to the parent content, is written in teen friendly language. During the at-church Sessions, teens will participate in small group discussions and activities with other teens to prepare them for conversation with their parents before the closing prayer.

Parents will begin leading Family Meetings at-home with their children using the tools and resources provided in *Root for Children*. These gatherings will be simple opportunities to begin conversations of faith and a rhythm of shared prayer in the home.

Children/teens will benefit from learning about faith through both at-home and at-church experiences. Time with other children/teens and parents will continue to build community connections with parish families.

As families continue to invest in their faith together, they will be supported in prayer by our faith community and experience a God who is near.

“So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him, rooted in him and built upon him and established in the faith as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

-Colossians 2:6-7



CLAIM



Claim is presented through both at-home and at-church experiences. The material is designed to prepare parents who are planning to baptize an infant or very young child. Parents will be invited into a deeper understanding of the sacrament of Baptism, as they are welcomed into their parish family.

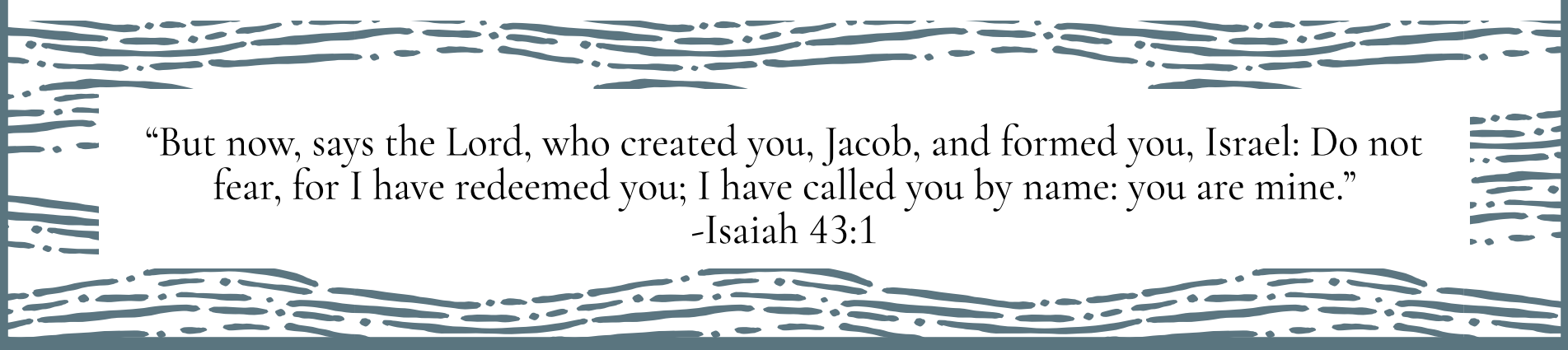
At-home Family Meetings include time for parents to reflect on how faith was passed on to them as a child. Parents will begin to think deeply about the image of God they want to share with their own child.

As parents learn more about the beautiful sacrament of Baptism, they will become better prepared to enter into the depth of God's invitation of new life for themselves and their child. Parents will be able to be present to the baptismal celebration as the key formers of their child and actively participate in the Rite.

At-church Sessions will be a time to interact with other parents. These valuable conversations and insights will let everyone know they are not on this journey alone. Parents are being invited into a community of families.

Godparents are also included in this process. Their influence is meant to last a lifetime. At-home and at-church experiences both include an opportunity to draw these chosen and well loved mentors into understanding their role. Godparents will be able to be present to the baptismal celebration as active participants who have a significant place in the life of the child.

As parents begin a journey of faith with their new family, they are being intentionally prayed for by our community. This is such a special time!



“But now, says the Lord, who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine.”

-Isaiah 43:1



Mend is presented through both at-home and at-church experiences. The material is designed to help families explore together the beauty of God's love and mercy as they help prepare a family member to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

Home is the first place children learn to give and receive forgiveness. At-home Family Meetings provide an opportunity to have practical conversations about God's love and mercy amongst family members.

At-church Sessions will be important for parents. As parents prepare their child for the sacrament of Reconciliation, they too will process their own brokenness and God's unconditional mercy. Small group time with other parents will be useful as part of this inward journey.

Children will continue to learn and play alongside other children during at-church Sessions. Reflection, teaching, and hands-on experiences will reinforce the reconciliation themes.

Children preparing for Reconciliation will be ready to come to the sacrament with an open heart, an understanding of God's love and mercy, the knowledge of what sin is, the humility to acknowledge their own mistakes, the desire to do better, and the ability to make a good confession.

As children prepare to receive Jesus's love and mercy through the sacrament of Reconciliation, they are each being prayed for by name by our parish community.

"If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing."

-1 John 1:9



NOURISH

Nourish is presented through both at-home and at-church experiences. The material is designed to help families explore together the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist, as they support a family member preparing to receive Communion for the first time.

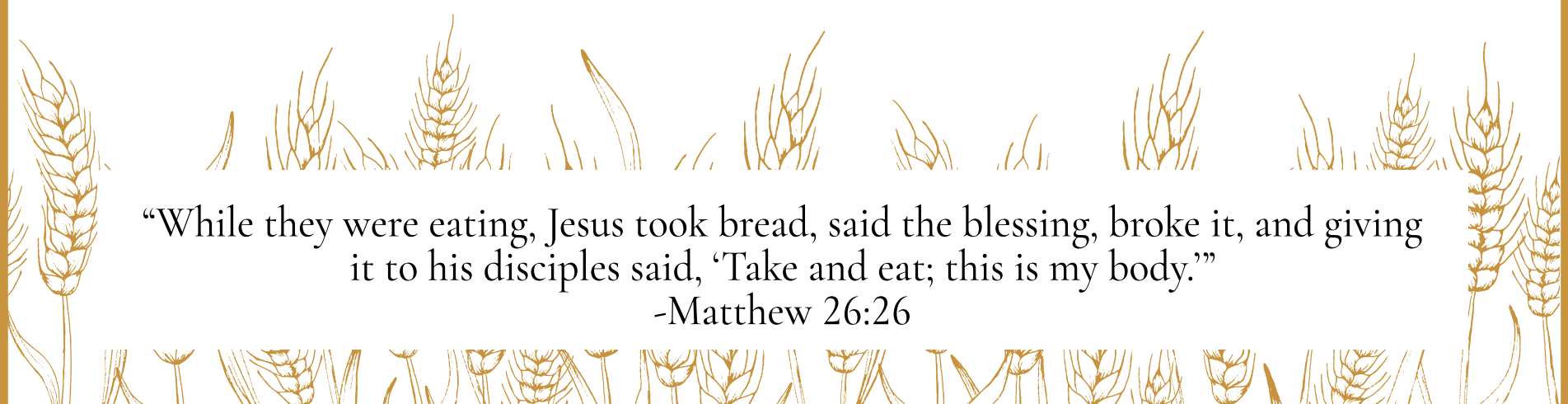
At-home Family Meetings invite families to participate in activities, teachings, and conversations aimed at helping better understand Jesus's gift of himself in the Eucharist. These experiences will help families engage the different parts of the Mass. As the first communicant prepares to receive Jesus, the whole family will be drawn in.

Parents will experience shared support during this special time as their own faith is invested in through at-church Sessions. Being a part of a small group of parents who are walking beside each other is invaluable.

Children will continue to grow beside one another during at-church Sessions. Hands-on experiential lessons will help children learn more about the sacrament they will soon be receiving.

Children receiving Eucharist will understand the gift that it is, coming to the altar well prepared and supported, as they receive Jesus into themselves.

As children prepare to receive Jesus through the sacrament of Eucharist, they are each being prayed for by name by our parish community.



“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’”

-Matthew 26:26



ZEAL



Zeal is presented through both at-home and at-church experiences. The material is designed to help families develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit and a life of discipleship, as they support a family member preparing to receive Confirmation.

Zeal for Children at-home Family Meetings, led by parents, invite families to become familiar with the promptings and movements of the Holy Spirit. Activities that unpack how God comes to us in the Spirit under signs and symbols, like oil, water, fire, wind, light, and a dove will lead to conversations about how the Spirit wants to be close to us, give us new life, and guide us through faith.


Parents will experience shared support during this special time as their own faith is invested in through at-church Sessions. Being part of a small group of parents who are walking beside each other will open their heart to the Paraclete in new ways.

Children will continue to grow beside one another during at-church Sessions. Hands-on experiential lessons will help children learn more about the sacrament they will soon be receiving.

Zeal for Teens at-home Mini-Series will help teens better understand the Holy Spirit and what it means to be a disciple related to their specific charisms. This will help them become more capable of assuming the apostolic responsibilities of Christian life.

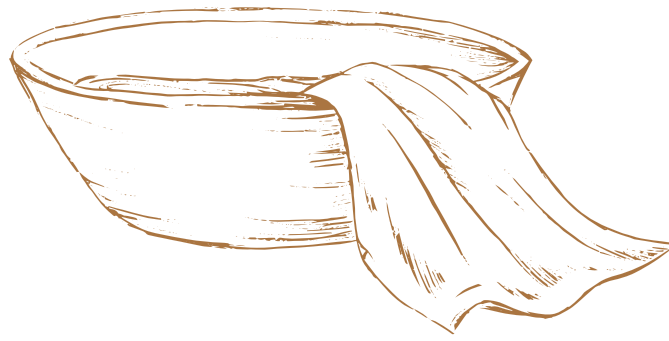
At-church Sessions, which include teens with parents, and teens with other teens in small groups, will facilitate conversations that lead to the integration of faith with daily life. They will learn from one another as they take up their role in the Body of Christ.

As children/teens prepare to be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Confirmation, they are each being prayed for by name by our parish community.



“Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.”
-Romans 12:11

MERCY



Mercy is presented through both at-home and at-church experiences. Jesus's whole life was lived for others, and we are invited to follow him. Families will be challenged to live out the mercy they have been shown.

Through at-home Family Meetings the spiritual and corporal works of mercy are explored together. Families will have important conversations about serving and helping others, being a voice in the world for the less fortunate and seeking and finding Jesus everywhere. Parents can begin to form the social conscience of their children by engaging the materials provided.

Each Family Meeting includes a practical way for families to live out the works of mercy with each other and those around them. This concrete challenge allows parents and children to move from talking to action.

At-church Sessions also include hands-on service opportunities. Working together to bless others is a powerful experience as families become the hands and feet of Jesus.

Shared prayer during both at-church and at-home experiences invite families to experience the power of praying for others and their needs. Through prayer, families can stand with others in a special way.

As families focus on the needs of others, they are being prayed for by our community.

"If I therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet."

-John 13:14



WONDER

Wonder is presented through both at-home and at-church experiences. The parables Jesus told while he was on earth continue to provide insights into a life of faith. They are written in language that inspires and challenges families.

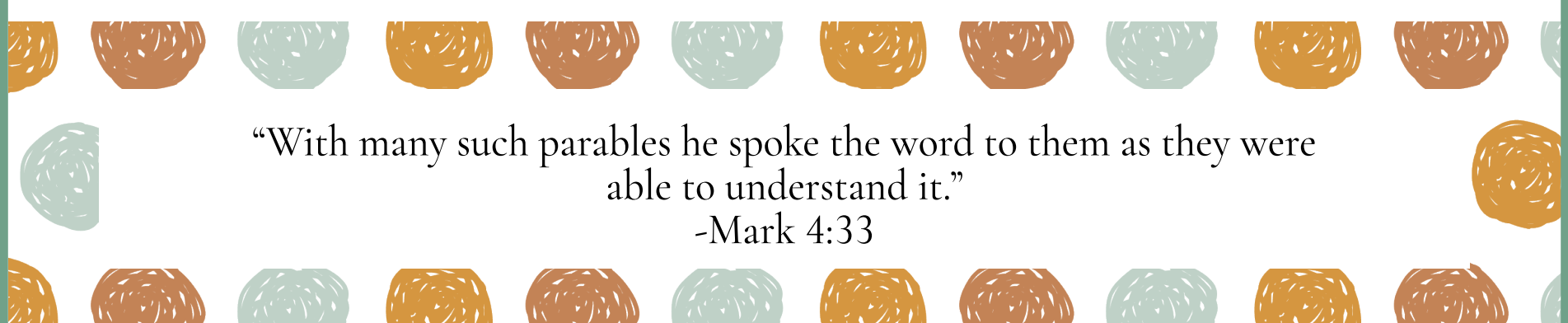
Wonder invites families to break open stories Jesus told and apply their deeper meanings to everyday life. The parables chosen focus on important moral themes and the prompts provided will lead to useful conversations.

At-home Family Meetings include time to develop the imagination needed for family members to insert themselves into the stories being told. Everyone will be reminded of the awe and wonder a life of faith requires.

Special attention is given to encouraging children to re-tell the parables in their own words. This is helpful as they are developing their own faith vocabulary. The materials include hands-on pop-outs to help with this.

At-church Sessions encourage community learning and fellowship. Families will share valuable insights as they participate in their own storytelling experiences.

As families spend time together sharing their faith and growing in wonder, they are being specially prayed for by our church community.



“With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.”

-Mark 4:33

WITNESSES

Witness is presented through both at-home and at-church experiences. All of us are called to give witness to God's presence in our lives. Families will explore the lives of some incredible men and women who lived ordinary and extraordinary lives which gave bold witness to God's presence in their lives, these particular people are known as saints.

The lives of saints will be celebrated at home by cooking a simple dish as a family that connects to a particular saint's story. Time cooking together is meant to encourage conversation and teamwork.

At-home Family Meetings focused on a saint's life correspond to each dish. As families learn and discuss together they will be encouraged to look at their individual calls to sainthood.

At-church Sessions include a community cooking experience and are combined with the story of other saints and discussion time with other families. Families will leave inspired to live out the virtues of the saint that is celebrated.

Shared prayer both at-home and at-church will be a time to help bring families to the heart of Jesus.

Families are a strong witness of God's love in the world. Our community is praying for each of our families as they talk about the lives of some wonderful examples of holiness.

"Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Heavenly Father."

-Matthew 5:16



QUEST

Quest is presented through both at-home and at-church experiences. The materials are designed to engage families in the adventure of a life of prayer.

The at-home Family Meetings each focus on a different type of prayer, as families learn how to talk to God in many different ways. *Quest* combines learning about prayer with the fun of participating in a family board game.

As parents and children form their own prayers, they work their way through the game board with a destination of reaching the summit, heaven! Prayer nourishes and sustains us along the way.

The at-church Sessions are focused on joining with other families to learn about the Church's greatest prayer, the Mass. Families are led through different parts of the Mass together, learning about the deeper meaning behind the beautiful and intentional work of the people.

Families will learn how to pray together and experience a living relationship with God, as they are being specially prayed for by our church community.

“Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.”
-Romans 12:12

BY HEART



By Heart is presented through at-home experiences. The resource is designed to help parents engage their children in the practice of learning and understanding traditional prayers, by heart.

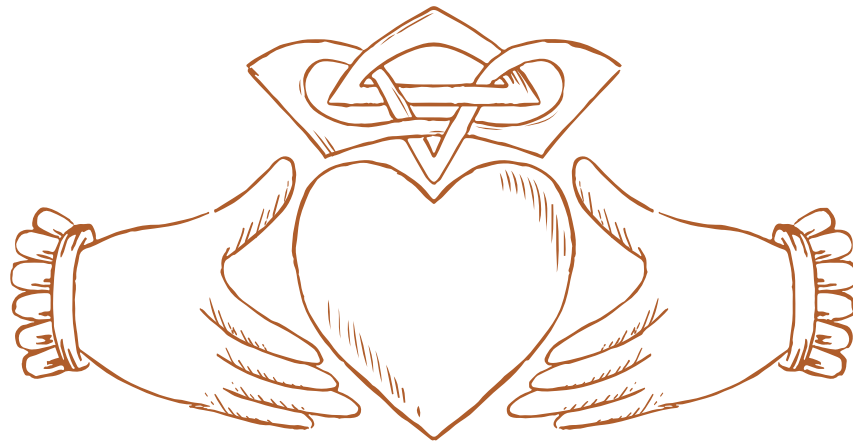
By Heart helps families to know by heart well loved Catholic prayers. Praying these over and over gives children the confidence to know they have prayer close by when needed.

As the words of these prayers become known to parents and children, they can help lead to the spiritual practice of meditation. The words quiet the outside noise and allow God's voice to become more clear.

Families will also learn the history of each particular prayer. This gives some understanding of how and why this prayer was written. The goal is not merely memorization, but an understanding of the deeper meaning behind the words we are praying.

As families commit to praying together, our surrounding community lifts them up in our prayers.

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”
-Matthew 6:21



ENDURE

Endure is presented through at-church experiences and extended through at-home activities. This resource is designed to meet couples in the midst of their married life. Together they will learn and practice important relationship skills and look more deeply at their shared faith.

Married couples will spend time interacting with each other, and as part of a small group. There is much wisdom to be experienced through sitting at tables with others on a similar journey.

Endure focuses on both head and heart knowledge. Particular skills are taught and practiced, as couples are also experiencing the intimacy of shared prayer and spiritual closeness. The *Endure* experience ends with a retreat, putting God in the center of the couple's relationship.

Couples continue to process the material at-home, on date nights, by sharing in important conversations that prepare them for the next Session.

Couples will walk away with a refreshed look at their marriage, a renewed experience of God's love and mercy, new skills to live out in their day to day interactions, and a support system made up of other parish couples.

As married couples invest in each other they are held in special prayer by our parish community.

“[Love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:7