



# Generations Of Faith St. Isidore Parish

An intergenerational,  
learning experience  
that provides  
a solid  
foundation  
for life-long faith  
development.





## Who Participates?

**Everyone**

All St. Isidore  
Parishioners

Singles

Couples

Families

**Everyone**

College Students

Teenagers

Kids

**Everyone**

Grandma & Grandpa

Empty Nesters

Newcomers

**Everyone**

The Curious from  
Other Parishes

Retired People

People Visiting  
from Out of Town

**EVERYONE!**



# Moving Beyond

- Moving beyond a focus on children to lifelong faith formation for all ages and generations
- Moving beyond “start and stop” catechesis to lifelong and continuous faith formation
- Moving beyond “participating in the program” as faith formation to learning for a lifetime through involvement in church life and events
- Moving beyond age segregation by grade or group to intergenerational faith formation—making connections among the generations in learning and parish involvement





# Moving Beyond

- Moving beyond a focus on the individual to a focus on the community—family and multi-generational
- Moving beyond a focus on the “textbook as the curriculum” to the events of Church life as the curriculum
- Moving beyond “drop off and pick-up” to active participation by the whole family in faith formation and church life
- Moving beyond the “family’s faith is the problem” to nurturing family faith at home as integral to faith formation
- Moving beyond catechesis as a separate “program” to a holistic and integrated approach that involves all of the parish’s ministries in faith formation





# Generations Approach

## A Congregation of Learners and Teachers

Generations of Faith is an innovative approach to faith formation that equips the parish to become a community of learning by creating lifelong faith formation that is centered in the events of church life, embraces all ages and generations, and promotes faith growth at home, through parish preparation programs, and, most importantly, through participation in church life





# Foundations: Learning Community

**Catechesis is nothing other than the process of transmitting the Gospel, as the Christian community has received it, understands it, celebrates it, lives it, and communicates it in many ways.  
(GDC 105)**





# Foundations: Learning Community

**The Christian community becomes a point of concrete reference for the faith journey of individuals**

**The community is a source, a place, and a means of learning, experiencing and passing on the faith.**





# Foundations: Comprehensive Faith Formation

**All of these tasks are necessary.**

- knowledge of the faith
- liturgical life
- moral formation
- prayer
- belonging to community
- missionary spirit





## Practice: Event-Centered

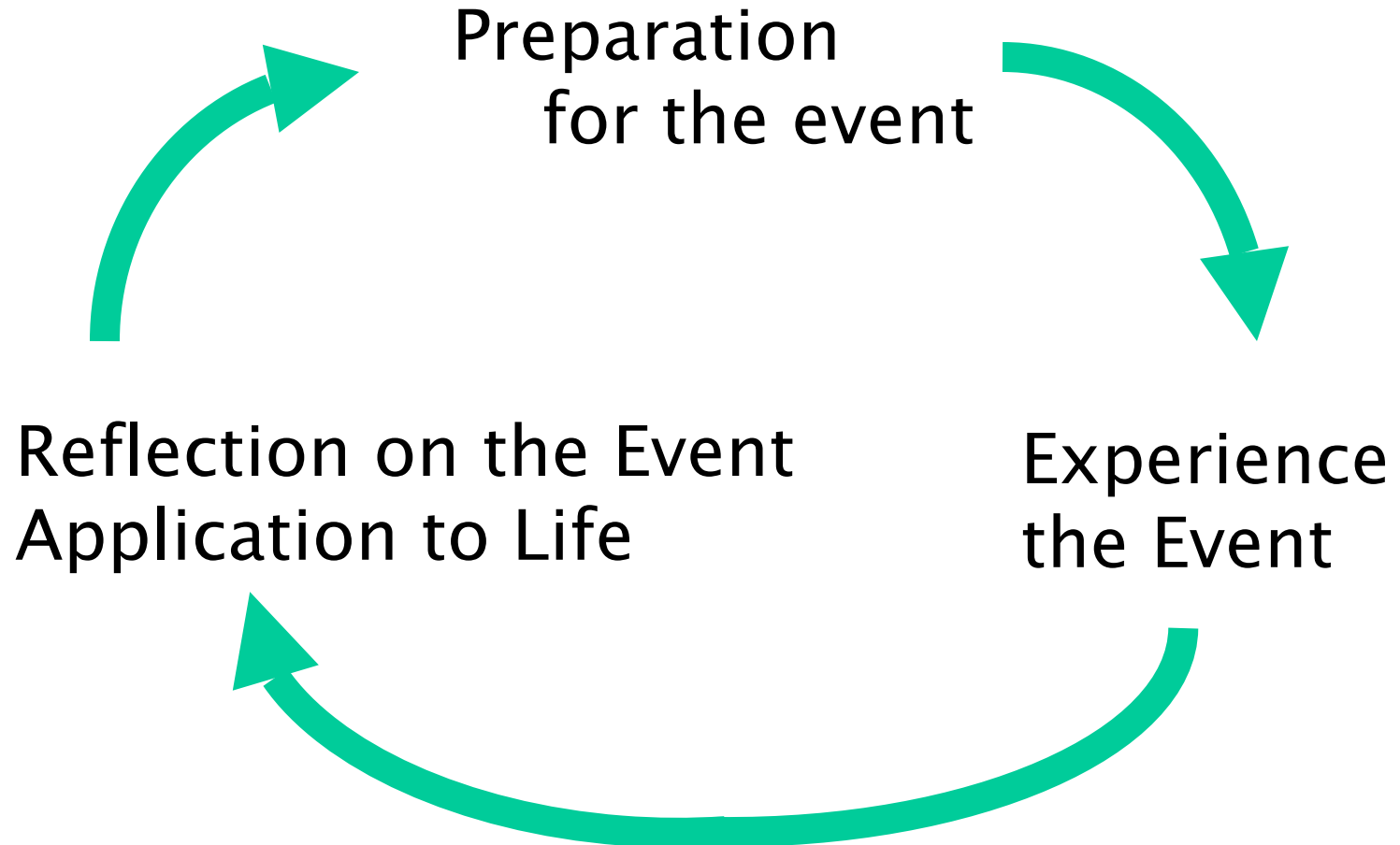
Faith Formation is *event-centered*, developed around the *events* of our shared life as Church. The Church is a community of learning—it is both curriculum and catechist.

- Church Year Feasts and Seasons
- Sacraments, Liturgy, and Life Cycle Rituals
- Prayer and Spirituality
- Justice and Service
- Community Life
- Proclamation of the Word





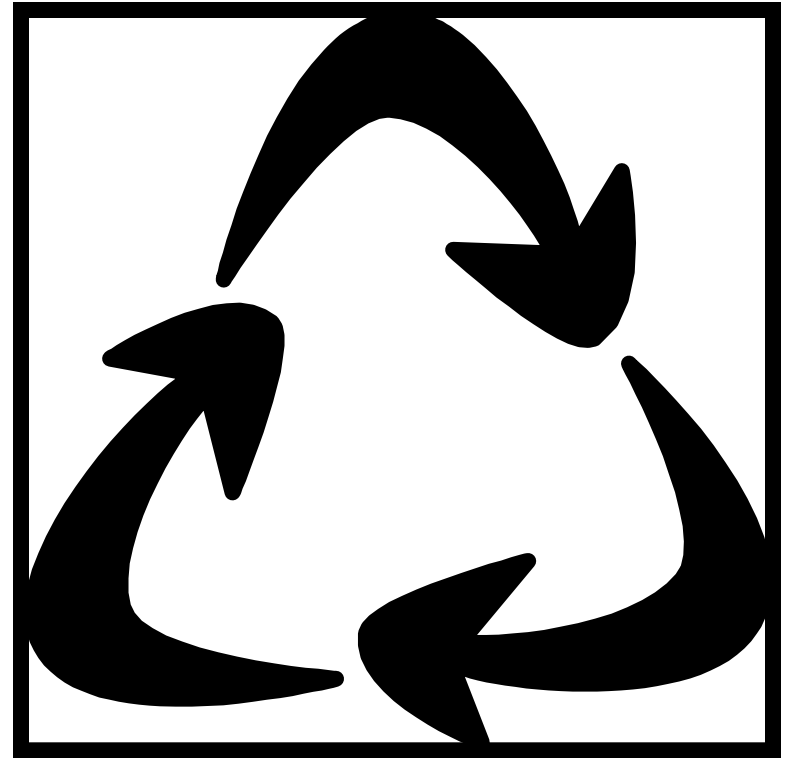
# Practice: Learning Process





## Practice: Lifelong & Cyclic

Faith Formation is *lifelong, cyclic, episodic, and continuous*. It is formed around the natural rhythm and pattern of the faith community's life as experienced throughout the year.





# Practice: Lifelong & Cyclic

## 1. Knowledge of the faith

- ✓ Church Year—Story of Jesus and salvation
- ✓ Creed and Church Year

## 2. Liturgical Life

- ✓ Church Year feasts and seasons
- ✓ Sacraments

## 3. Moral Formation

- ✓ Moral values and principles through the year: Church Year feasts and seasons, Lectionary, justice and service projects, sacraments

## 4. Prayer and Spirituality

- ✓ Prayer, sacraments, spiritual practices, devotions through the year, etc.

## 5. Missionary Activity

- ✓ Justice and Service

## 6. Belonging to Community





## Practice: Emergent Content

Faith Formation is *emergent*—the beliefs and practices for living as a Catholic today emerge from the life, events, and practices of the faith community. The beliefs and practices for living the Catholic faith are embedded in the events of church life.





## Practice: Learning Process

Faith formation is a cyclic process of learning involving...

- ***preparing*** all ages and all generations for meaningful participation in church events
- ***engaging*** members in the events
- ***reflecting*** on the significance and meaning of the event and ***applying*** the learning to living as Catholics





## Practice: Learning Process

***know-how***—acquiring the ability to participate competently in the event and to live its meaning in their lives as Catholics

***know-what***—developing a fuller understanding of the event and its theological focus

***know-why***—growing in their understanding of the meaning and significance of the event for their lives as Catholics





# Practice: Alignment

## Learning Approaches for Preparation

Age-group Learning Models: classes, workshops, retreats, small group faith sharing

Family Learning Models: family-centered, family cluster, family-household

Intergenerational Learning Models

Specialized Learning: RCIA

Infused Learning: Organizations and Committees





## Practice: Faith at Home

Faith Formation views the family as the *domestic church*, “the church of the home,” integrating *home* and *parish* into a comprehensive model of faith formation.

- *Extend* and *Expand* the learning from a preparation program and experience of the event





## Practice: Faith at Home

- *Create* a pattern of family faith sharing that is integral to family life and is woven into the fabric of daily life
- *Engage* families and individuals in living the event at home by...
  - Celebrating traditions and rituals
  - Learning the Catholic faith story
  - Praying together
  - Serving others and working for justice
  - Enriching family relationships and family life





## Practice: Curriculum

### **Lifelong, Event-Centered Curriculum as Primary Curriculum for Everyone**

8-10 intergenerational preparation programs per year with tracks for (1) families with children, (2) adolescents, (3) young adults, and (4) adults

Home Kit for each program

Options for participation

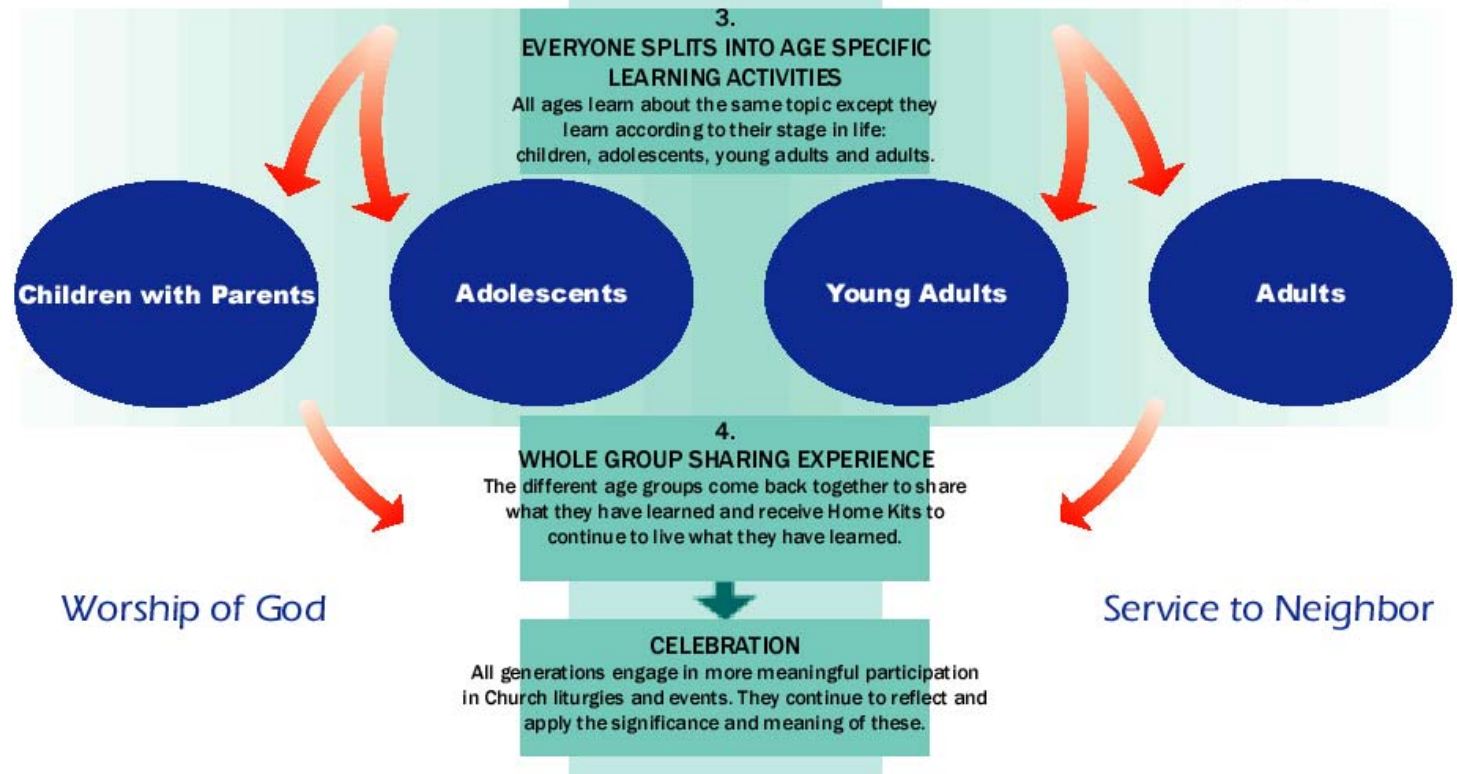
– Friday (6-9 p.m.), Sunday (5-8 p.m.)



# Generations Of Faith

St. Isidore Parish  
Stow, MA

Learning the Faith





# Events: Preliminary 2004-2005

Gathering dates	Gathering Theme	Event Date/Time	Event
Sunday Sept 19 after 10:30 Mass	Empowering the Domestic Church	Sunday Sept 19 10:30	Catechetical Sunday Mass Followed by Kick-off cook-out
Fri/Sun* October 22/24	All Saints Who is a Saint?	Monday Nov. 1 7:00 PM	All Saints Liturgy
Fri/Sun* November 12/14	Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany	Sunday Dec. 12 5:00PM	Lessons & Carols
Fri/Sun* January 21/23	Lent Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving	February 9 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
Fri/Sun* March 11/13	Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus	March 24, 25, 26 7:30 PM	Triduum Liturgy
Fri/Sun* April 8/10	Pentecost: Birthday of the Church	May 15 10:30 AM	Pentecost Liturgy
Fri/Sun* May 20/22	Images of Mary	June 12 10:30 AM	Sunday Liturgy Followed by closing picnic





# Who Else Is Doing Generations of Faith?

- 600 Parishes in US and Canada
- 35 Parishes in Boston Archdiocese, including St. Elizabeth in Action, Our Lady's in West Concord
- Developed by the Center For Ministry Development in Naugatuck, CT with a grant from Lily Foundation





# What about Sacraments

There will continue to be separate programs for:

- First Reconciliation
- First Eucharist
- Confirmation
- Pre-School and Pre-K program during 10:30 Mass





# 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Retreat Experience





# What's Next

## Registration

Forms mailed early June

Due back June 25

Family: \$125 for the year

Single: \$75

Senior: \$50

Separate Charge for meals at each gathering





# Generations of Faith: St. Isidore

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learning experience  
that provides  
a solid  
foundation  
for life-long faith  
development.

Thank You!

