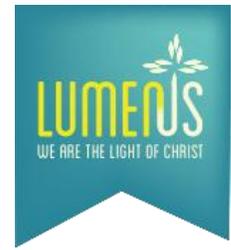


Life-long Faith Formation



“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

The Church’s pastoral ministry exists to sustain the work of the Gospel. One way it does this is by nourishing and strengthening each member of the community in their calling and identity as people of faith, as contributors to the life and work of the Church, and as disciples whose mission is to the world. As adults, we assume that responsibility for ourselves, consciously growing in the life of Christ through experience, reflection and prayer. As parents, we accept responsibility to model and develop our children’s spiritual lives, as we do for their physical, emotional, and educational development. As a strong and vibrant faith community of faith and service, we actively support all persons in developing a life-long relationship with God and each other.

Areas of Discovery

- Tasks of life-long faith development include (1) Promote knowledge of the faith (2) Understand the meaning of liturgy and the sacraments (3) Develop a moral formation in Jesus Christ (4) Discern how to pray with Christ (5) Show how to live in community and participate in the life and mission of the Church (6) Develop a missionary spirit to be present as Christians in society.¹
- Adult faith formation, by which people consciously grow in the life of Christ through experience, reflection, prayer and study, must be “the central task”, around which revolves the catechesis of childhood and adolescence as well as that of old age. This can be done specifically through developing in adults a better understanding of, and participation in, the full sacramental life of the Church.¹
- LCCC Faith Formation includes Advent and Lent retreats, soup suppers, Bible studies, speakers; Sacramental prep for baptism and RCIA for adults and youth, First Eucharist, First Reconciliation & Confirmation; Youth Faith Formation classes grades 1 to 8 (51 families / 82 students in 2013-14); Children’s Liturgy of the Word; Safety curriculum for adults and students.
- Perceived areas of tension: a sacramental preparation program that exists outside of school curriculum, the inclusion of youth who do not attend our parish school, increased opportunities for adult faith-formation such as Bible studies. How to provide opportunities for diversity of learning styles.
- As a child enters adulthood, maintaining and developing a relationship with God is often difficult. Young adults, single and with families, form a smaller segment of our community, and seniors form our fastest-growing segment. All need to be considered when developing parish programming.
- The Eucharistic liturgy is central to our faith and a prime formation experience, yet mass attendance is less than half of registered members.
- As with other parish areas, communication of the variety of faith formation offerings is a challenge

Conversation Starters

- How do we promote a culture of life-long learning that fully engages parishioners, and their families in the intentional and deliberate development of their faith? What obstacles prevent increased involvement?
- How do we help parents model and develop the faith of their children? How can the community support this?
- How do we encourage ongoing faith formation for young people following confirmation and through young adulthood?
- Can programs offered by LCCC complement life-long faith development programs offered by area high schools, universities, young adult & adult formation programs offered elsewhere?
- How can an intergenerational faith model be enhanced and encouraged?

1. U.S. Bishops, 2005.