

Parish Faith Formation Inventory

Office of Lifelong Faith Formation
Diocese of Buffalo

Parish _____ City _____

Parish Information

Please provide the following demographic information. Give your best estimate of numbers if actual numbers are not available.

1. Total # of parishioners in the parish _____
2. Total # of people attending Mass on a typical weekend _____
3. Number of couples married in the past 12 months: _____
4. Number of children baptized in the past 12 months: _____
5. Number of children receiving First Communion in the past 12 months: _____
6. Number of children/teens confirmed in the past 12 months: _____
7. Number of adults involved in the RCIA in the past 12 months: _____
8. *For parishes conducting family or intergenerational programming:*
Number of families/households participating in faith formation programs: _____
9. Number of children in grades 1-5 participating in faith formation programs: _____
10. Number of teens in grades 6-8 participating in faith formation programs: _____
11. Number of teens in grades 9-12 participating in faith formation programs: _____
12. Number of young adults (20s-30s) participating in faith formation programs: _____
13. Number of adults (40s+) participating in faith formation programs: _____

Ethnic Diversity:

Check all the boxes that apply and provide an estimate of the % of your parish in each category. Write-in additional ethnic groups in your parish

- European-Americans/White % _____
- African-American % _____
- Hispanic/Latino American % _____
- Asian-American % _____
- Other: _____ % _____
- Other: _____ % _____

Faith Formation Information

Use this inventory to assess all of your current faith formation offerings. Check all of the faith formation program models currently in use in your parish and then provide the appropriate information under each category about your faith formation efforts.

1. Sacramental Preparation

Please briefly describe what is involved in each preparation process, e.g., parish program (number of sessions), family involvement, role of sponsors or other adults, and additional features such as special projects and activities, service activity, and worship experience.

Baptism Preparation

- Parish Program

- Family Involvement

- Role of Sponsors / Adults

- Additional Features

First Eucharist Preparation

- Parish Program

- Family Involvement

- Role of Sponsors / Adults

- Additional Features

First Reconciliation Preparation

- Parish Program

- Family Involvement

- Role of Sponsors / Adults

- Additional Features

Confirmation Preparation

- Parish Program

- Family Involvement

- Role of Sponsors / Adults

- Additional Features

Marriage Preparation

- Parish Program

- Family Involvement

- Role of Sponsors / Adults

- Additional Features

RCIA

- Parish Program

- Family Involvement

- Role of Sponsors / Adults

- Additional Features

2. Children's Faith Formation (grades K-5)

Program Models

Please check all that apply:

- Weekly Textbook-based Catechetical Program
- Lectionary-based Catechetical Program
- Mini-Course Catechetical Program (e.g. 4- 6-8 blocks of programming)
- Family-Centered Catechetical Program
- Intergenerational Catechetical Program
- Summer Catechetical Program
- Vacation Bible School
- Other model: _____
- Other model: _____

Spiritual Formation

- What types of spiritual development experiences/programs does your church provide for children (e.g., prayer, liturgical seasons, ritual celebrations, retreats)?
- Which prayer practices do you teach children, e.g., silence and silent prayer, centering prayer, meditative prayer, guided meditation, reading the Bible, guided meditation, praying with poetry, art, or music, etc.?

Justice and Service Projects

- How are children engaged in service to those in need – in the parish, at home, in the community, in the world? What types of service programs and activities does your church provide children? How are children prepared for service?

Congregational Life

- What kinds of opportunities do children have to practice their faith through hands-on participation in the life, ministries, and activities of the congregation? Identify the settings and ways they are already involved.
- How do educational programs prepare children to participate with all their senses in the life of the community through worship, prayer, service, learning, relationships, leadership, and so on?

3. Young Adolescent Faith Formation (grades 6-8)

Program Models

Please check all that apply:

- Weekly Textbook-based Catechetical Program
- Lectionary-based Catechetical Program
- Mini-Course Catechetical Program (e.g. 4-6-8 blocks of programming)
- Small Faith Communities or Cell Group Catechetical Program
- Monthly Youth Gathering with Teaching
- Retreat Programs
- Family-Centered Catechetical Program
- Intergenerational Catechetical Program
- Summer Catechetical Program
- Vacation Bible School
- Other model: _____
- Other model: _____

Spiritual Formation

- What types of spiritual development experiences/programs does your church provide for young adolescents (e.g., prayer, liturgical seasons, ritual celebrations, retreats)?
- Which prayer practices do you teach young adolescents, e.g., silence and silent prayer, centering prayer, meditative prayer, guided meditation, reading the Bible, guided meditation, praying with poetry, art, or music, etc.?

Justice and Service Projects

- How are young adolescents engaged in service to those in need—in the parish, at home, in the community, in the world? What types of service programs and activities does your church provide young adolescents? How are young adolescents prepared for service?

Congregational Life

- What kinds of opportunities do young adolescents have to practice their faith through hands-on participation in the life, ministries, and activities of the congregation? How do educational programs prepare young adolescents to participate in the life of the community through worship, prayer, service, learning, relationships, and leadership?

4. Older Adolescent Faith Formation (grades 9-12)

Program Models

Please check all that apply:

- Weekly Textbook-based Catechetical Program
- Lectionary-based Catechetical Program
- Mini-Course Catechetical Program (e.g. 4-6-8 blocks of programming)
- Small Faith Communities or Cell Group Catechetical Program
- Independent Learning
- Monthly Youth Gathering with Teaching
- Retreat Programs
- Intergenerational Catechetical Program
- Summer Catechetical Program
- Vacation Bible School
- Other model: _____
- Other model: _____

Spiritual Formation

- What types of spiritual development experiences/programs does your church provide for older adolescents (e.g., prayer, liturgical seasons, ritual celebrations, retreats)?
- Which prayer practices do you teach older adolescents, e.g., silence and silent prayer, centering prayer, meditative prayer, guided meditation, reading the Bible, guided meditation, praying with poetry, art, or music, etc.?

Justice and Service Projects

- How are older adolescents engaged in service to those in need – in the parish, in the community, in the world? What types of service programs and activities does your church provide older adolescents? How are older adolescents prepared for service?

Congregational Life

- What kinds of opportunities do older adolescents have to practice their faith through hands-on participation in the life, ministries, and activities of the congregation? How do educational programs prepare older adolescents to participate in the life of the community through worship, prayer, service, learning, relationships, and leadership?

5. Young Adult Faith Formation (adults in their 20s and 30s)

Program Models

Please identify faith formation offerings for young adults in each category.

- Independent Learning Opportunities** (e.g., reading, podcasts and audio learning, video podcasts and video-based learning, online courses, online learning centers)

What our church offers:

- Small Group Learning Opportunities** (e.g., discipleship or faith sharing groups, Bible study groups, topical study groups, practice-focused groups, special interest groups)

What our church offers:

- Large Group Learning Opportunities** (e.g., multi-session courses, one-session program, speaker series, workshops, film festivals, intergenerational catechetical programs)

What our church offers:

Spiritual Formation

- What types of retreats and spiritual formation experiences/programs does your church offer young adults?

Justice & Service Projects

- What types of short-term and long-term social justice and service projects (locally, nationally and globally) does your church offer young adults (sponsored by the church or offered by other organizations)? How does your church prepare young adults for justice and service involvements, and help them to reflect upon their experience in light of the Christian faith?

6. Adult Religious Education

Program Models

Please identify faith formation offerings for adults in each category.

- Independent Learning Opportunities** (e.g., reading, magazines, podcasts and audio learning, video podcasts and video-based learning, online courses, online learning centers)

What our church offers:

- Small Group Learning Opportunities** (e.g., discipleship or faith sharing groups, Bible study groups, topical study groups, practice-focused groups, special interest groups)

What our church offers:

- Large Group Learning Opportunities** (e.g., multi-session courses, one-session program, speaker series, round table discussions, parent parallel learning, field trips, intergenerational programs, workshops, film festivals, conferences)

What our church offers:

- Study-Action Projects** (e.g., education and action for justice and service, training and participation in church ministry or leadership roles)

What our church offers:

- Which of your church's faith formation offerings are targeted to older adults (65+)?

Spiritual Formation

- What types of retreats and spiritual formation experiences does your church offer adults (e.g., online spiritual formation, spiritual directors, prayer group or prayer breakfast, retreats at local retreat houses, church-based retreats: evenings, one-day, weekend)?

7. Family Faith Formation & Parent Education

Program Models

Please identify faith formation programming for the whole family.

- monthly large group family or intergenerational learning programs
- family workshops through the year focused on family faith practices, church year seasons, and/or family-focused topics
- family cluster or small group learning programs
- family-centered or intergenerational vacation Bible school
- family-centered (small group or large group) lectionary-based Scripture reflection
- family retreats and camps
- family Bible study
- family-centered sacramental preparation programs

At-Home Family Resources

- What types of faith formation resources for the home does your church provide families throughout the year, such as resources connected to educational programming or Sunday worship or liturgical seasons?

Spiritual Formation

- What types of spiritual development experiences/programs does your church provide for the whole family (e.g., prayer, liturgical seasons, ritual celebrations, retreats)?

Justice and Service Projects

- How is the whole family engaged in service to those in need – in the parish, in the community, in the world? What types of service programs and activities does your church provide the whole family? How are families prepared for service?

Parent Education

- What are the ways that your church provides parent education and formation, e.g., 1) opportunities for nurturing parental faith, 2) parent-child/teen programs, 3) workshops/programs for teaching parenting skills, 4) parent information and resources for developing the faith life of children/teens, and 5) supporting parents' efforts in practicing faith at home?