

GIFT: GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Autumn 2020: Adult Faith Formation



RE-IMAGINING ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The pandemic has brought about changes in our lives, in society, and in church and religious life beyond anything we could ever have expected. We are forced to abandon the old models of Sunday worship, large group gatherings, adult and children's classes, youth meetings, ritual and sacramental celebrations and retreats, and reimagine church life and faith formation in new, innovative ways.

WHAT IS GIFT?

Our GIFT Approach to adult faith formation is learner-centered, offering a choice of online content, experiences, programs, and methods that will promote growth in faith and discipleship. Seasonal programming allows us to be more flexible in this rapidly changing environment.

Beginning in September, we are offering our Autumn programming with a "menu" approach that provides a way for you to select from a variety of programs and activities to create your own plan for faith formation. This person-centered approach gives you control over **what** and **when** and **where** you will participate, **and how much**. Because of pandemic precautions and distancing guidelines as well as limited physical space, this approach uses a variety of online programs and resources, live-streaming, videos, webinars, as well as gathered settings in online interactive groups such as Zoom. We invite you to discover our Menu of Playlists.

A MENU OF PLAYLISTS

A playlist is a curated group of digital (online, video, audio, print) faith formation content and experiences on specific themes or topics that is published on a webpage for easy access and learning. Each playlist provides a variety of ways for people to learn and grow in faith and allows you to choose according to interests, needs, schedules, and digital access.

In the Menu approach, descriptions and links to activities and experiences on a theme or topic are organized by categories: **Learn, Read, Watch, Listen, Participate, Pray, Live**. You are invited to choose from the Menu, with offerings as diverse as Yale University, Disney, Busted Halo, Bishop Barron, and Pope Francis. You can watch a short presentation or a long video, read an article or study for 4 weeks, listen to a podcast or participate in a Zoom discussion, pray alone, or prepare the Sunday readings. The choice of how you grow your faith is yours.

More Playlists coming Soon!

New to the Bible; The Gospel of Matthew Part 2; Explore Different Paths to Prayer; Reflect o the Sunday Lectionary; Welcome Back to the Catholic Church; Celebrate All Saints/All Souls; Social Justice Issues; and Prepare to Celebrate a Sacrament.

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GIFT begins with the topic, *The Season of Creation*, on September 1, 2020; do this anytime on your own. And the *At Home with the Word* Lectionary virtual group study gathers on Tuesdays at 10 am; register for your Zoom slot in advance. Join at any time.

For more information, contact Catherine Combier-Donovan at CCombierDo@SJNChurch.com or 803.788.3252, x326

LECTIONARY PLAYLIST

REFLECT ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

AND DAILY READINGS, TOO

CHOOSE THOSE THAT APPEAL TO YOU THE MOST!

Read

- Scripture is proclaimed on Sunday according to a schedule called the **Lectionary**. Read a brief article in US Catholic on [“How Are the Sunday Readings Chosen?”](#)
- Access the varied reflections on **The Sunday Website** at St. Louis University. <https://liturgy.slu.edu/>
- Explore the Sunday Gospel and more, **“52 Sundays”** from the Archdiocese of Detroit with reflections, prayer, activities and even recipes. <https://www.52sundays.com/sundays/august-9-2020>
- Daily Mass readings and meditations from **The Word Among Us** at <https://wau.org/meditations>
- Weekly column, “The Story and You: Sacred Conversations.” <http://www.thestoryandyou.com/>. Short reflection and question. (5 min.)



Share

- Weekly Video Conference via Zoom with Mary Ann Fey. Explore the Scripture readings you heard on Sunday and discuss, using **At Home with the Word 2020**. Copies available in the Parish Office for a \$5 donation. Begins Tuesday 9/15 at 10 am. Pre-register to get a Zoom invitation by Monday 9/14 at noon. (1hr.30 min.)



Watch

- **“Word on Fire.”** Subscribe to daily Gospel Reflection by Bishop Robert Barron. <https://dailycatholicgospel.com/thank-you-daily-gospel> (11 min.)
- Video and text on the Sunday Lectionary by qualified and theologically-informed women. **Catholic Women Preach**. <https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/> (11 min.)
- Video reflections on the daily readings from the **USCCB** (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) by various experts. <https://bible.usccb.org/podcasts/video> (3:36 min.)



Listen

- The above from the **USCCB** also offered as podcasts
- Sign up for the daily podcast **“Pray as You Go”**, an excellent offering by the Jesuits of England, with music, prayer, and meditation based on the reading of the day. Offered in **English, Spanish, or French**. Available also as an app. (10 Min.)



Resource

- Extraordinary ecumenical resource, **“The Text This Week”**: Scripture, reflections, art, podcasts, movies, music, homilies, and more. <http://www.textweek.com/>.

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LITURGICAL SEASONS PLAYLIST



2016 - Pope Francis asked Catholics to join in celebrating the Season of Creation. Choose one or more activities to participate during the four-week season.

CREATIONTIDE: THE SEASON OF CREATION

SEPTEMBER 1 (CREATION DAY) – OCTOBER 4 (ST. FRANCIS)

Watch

- “Take Part in the Season of Creation”, by Vatican News: <https://youtu.be/gDqGkSb-4Rc>

Read

- Summary of Pope Francis’ encyclical: *Laudato Si’*. This is Pope Francis’ historic encyclical on care for creation and our common home. [Laudato Si’ Summary](#)
- Season of Creation [2020 Letter from the Vatican](#)

Pray and Reflect

- Pray the [Laudate Si’ 2020 Anniversary Prayer](#) in a Time of Pandemic
- Pray the [Laudato si’ Chapelet](#)
- Reflections during Creation Time: Praying with the Gospels, stories from our time and *Laudato Si’*. A five-week program of prayer and reflection. [PDF](#) or [Creation Time Prayer Link](#)

Participate

- [Gratitude Walk](#) A simple activity to do with family, friends, or alone
- Read, pray, and reflect on creation for 6 days, with the activity sheet [Bringing Order from Chaos](#) from Vibrant Faith Catalyst

Listen

- Teach your children to sing and sign “God Made Me as I Am,” a lovely little song. "God made me as I am, part of creation's plan. No-one else can ever be the part of God's plan that's me". Good for kids. Youtube with gestures (American sign language) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ATgKiPDI8nU>.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY PLAYLIST

Fall 2020: Exploring the Gospel of Matthew

Initial Video Invitation/Introduction by Fr. Sandy McDonald *[To Be Announced Soon!]*

Read

- Learn about the Gospel of Matthew at *Enter the Bible*: outline, background, introductory issues, and theological themes (<https://www.enterthebible.org/newtestament.aspx?rid=2>).
- Read *The Gospel According to Matthew: Part One*, or if you participated in the Matthew study in January/February 2020, read *The Gospel According to Matthew: Part Two* (Little Rock Scripture Study)

Watch

- Explore the Gospel of Matthew in a two-part, animated video series from The Bible Project. (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/matthew/>) (8min.)
- Watch the *Gospel of Matthew* movie on Netflix – word-for-word Bible texts of the entire book of Matthew are narrated and re-enacted in this epic production of the Gospel's account of Jesus life. LUMO Bible Project. (<https://www.netflix.com/title/81035751>) (3 hours, 20 min.)
- *From Jesus to Christ*, a PBS Frontline film <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/showsreligion/>. Rich historical resource. See "The Story of the Storytellers."

Participate

- Join an 8-session online Bible study of "The Gospel of Matthew" on Yale Bible Study with Dr. Harold W. Attridge and Dr. Michal Beth Dinkler. (<https://yalebiblestudy.org/courses/the-gospel-of-matthew/>). Watch a 15 min. video and read material. Excellent!

Listen

- Listen to the audio program "How to Read and Understand the Gospel of Matthew" by Prof. Ian Boxall, D. Phil, at The Catholic University of America (<https://www.learn25.com/product/how-to-read-and-understand-the-gospel-of-matthew/>). 15 lectures, available as download or CDs. \$139.95

Pray and Reflect

- *50 Day Bible Challenge: A Journey with Matthew* by Marek P. Zabriskie. Take a journey through the Gospel of Matthew with fifty days of scripture readings, meditations, questions, and prayers. Twenty-five dynamic spiritual leaders and authors serve as guides, writing from around the world about the wisdom, lessons, and parables shared by Matthew, one of the great apostles and evangelists. <https://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/2289/a-journey-with-matthew.aspx>

NEW TO THE BIBLE?

- Start with "How to Read and Understand the Bible" from Ascension Press, (8 min video) <https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/how-to-read-and-understand-the-whole-bible/> (9 min.)
- *Bible Basics* a 5-week online course offered by the University of Dayton's VLCF Program. may be taken for credit. <https://vlcuff.dayton.edu/calendar/course.php?course=161>. Discount offered by the Diocese of Charleston.