

Religious Education Resources for Use at Home

The resources online are so numerous, we cannot list them all. I tried to provide a variety of resources, mostly free, for families to use to continue faith formation at home. Faith formation is not just sending our kids to class on the weekends or to Catholic school. It is teaching our children the Catholic way of life and the culture of faith we want them to grow in. It is teaching them not just about going to church, but to *be* “church.” May God bless you and your families. If you have questions or need more information, please call Mary Hickin, Director of Faith Formation for Catechesis and Sacraments, at (814) 824-1222

Intro to Doing at Home Catechesis

[Vibrant Faith](#) has an online article that may be helpful. It is called *Moving Faith Formation Online* and is written by John Roberto. It also has a lot of links that may be helpful. He also included this info on Zoom – a great way to connect with catechists or families.

Zoom Information: If you are new to Zoom here are a few resources to help:

First, Zoom has tutorials online: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials>.

Second, Zoom has a YouTube channel with short "How to" videos that are very helpful. Go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFhAEoCF7jq&list=PLKpRxBfeD1kEM_I1Ild3N_XI77fKDzSxe.

Third, I have attached an article from Zoom: "[Tips and Tricks for Teachers Educating on Zoom.](#)"

Fourth, Lifelong Learning at VTS recently did a webinar on hosting a video conference using Zoom. Sarah Stonesifer and Chris Decatur presented best practices and introductions for creating good community opportunities for Zoom video meetings. Here's the link: <https://buildfaith.org/webinar-thursday-march-12th-best-practices-for-zoom-meetings>.

*[Lifelong Faith](#) is another site created by John Roberto and has a lot of links to resources for kids, parents, adults looking for faith formation sources.

Faith Formation Resources

*[Pflaum resources](#) – Gospel Weeklies Unit 4

Additional resources from [Bayard](#), Pflaum's parent company. They include: Pflaum, Twenty-Third Publications, Creative Communications for the Parish, Catechist Magazine, Living with Christ, Living Faith, and Catholic Digest.

*Loyola Press has created a special lesson as a companion to *Growing with God: Safe and Sacred*™ child safety and Catholic family living program.

[Growing with GOD Coronavirus Response Lesson – Student Worksheet](#)

[Growing with GOD Coronavirus Response Lesson – Teacher/Catechist/Parent Pages](#)

[Growing with GOD Coronavirus Response Lesson – Lesson Resource](#)

*[Sadlier](#) has given us a link to their programs. You will need to log in with the username and password below.

Username: SadlierStudent

Password: ReadyToLearn!

As a reminder, you already have access to online program-specific content on *Sadlier Connect* at www.Religion.SadlierConnect.com to support online faith formation at home. You can also find

more helpful free Catechetical online resources, which are not program specific, at www.SadlierReligion.com/resources.

*[Decision Point](#) for your Confirmation students has the videos online for free. If you want your students to review anything before Confirmations are reinstated, here is where they can go. You can also find the [Blessed](#) programs on the Dynamic Catholic website, along with their Lenten reflections and many other books, information, etc.

*RCL Benziger is offering [free digital access](#) for 60 days. You have to create a sign-in and request a code, but you will be able to access parish school or Catholic school programs.

*Sophia Institute has a site with [free lessons](#) and more. You will need to create a free account and sign in to access them.

*FAITH@HOME

[4 Free Tools for Ministry amidst Coronavirus](#)

Catechist Resources

*The Archdiocese of Hartford has a page of resources for catechists. If you scroll down, you get to a few links that are free and may come in handy. Click here: [Resources for Times of Tragedy](#). Just below the section on Tragedy is a section Creative Ideas on Teaching the Catholic Faith.

*[Otis for Educators](#) is a website with some free resources that can be used to help catechists.

*[Free e-resource bundle](#) from Pastoral Center. You can also find more free resources on their website. These include four weeks of Gospel reflections and activities for kids and adults.

More for Parents

*[Strong Catholic Family Faith](#) also has multiple links to resources.
<http://www.catholicfamilyfaith.org/>

*[Catholic Parents Online](#) will give parents some ideas for working with their families.

*A [schedule](#) for parents to follow or create for homeschooling with their kids is on Twitter from Teacher Truths. Forward it to parents to help them begin to normalize their daily routine with their children.

*[Actions for Healthy Kids](#) is a website with activities to do with your kids while at home for the next few weeks. They also have a site [Resources for Schools and Families During COVID-19/Coronavirus](#). It has tips for homeschooling, play, activities, nutrition, and more.

*CatholicMom.com has [Lenten Activities for Kids](#) has a website with a bunch of links, activities and printable resources.

[The Kennedy Adventures](#) “offering practical solutions for Catholic parents” has some free stuff for kids, and links to some other activities. Some have a cost, but may entice some parents to get involved with new activities with their kids.

Doing “Church” at Home

*Ascension Press has a special podcast about what to do when you cannot go to Sunday Mass. There are also some suggestions for doing an at-home Liturgy of the Word.

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/podcast/the-coronavirus-and-missing-sunday-mass/>

*Stations of the Cross for children – here are a couple sites that have free, printable versions:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/~media/Images/Loyola%20Press/ocf-articles/Lent/lent-assets/stations-of-the-cross-for-children.ashx>

<https://www.catholicicing.com/printable-stations-of-cross-for/>

https://wau.org/resources/article/re_stations_cross_kids/

http://www.catholicmom.com/stations_booklet.pdf

<https://www.thereligionteacher.com/stationsofthecross-activities/>

A search online will bring up hundreds of sites.

*Don’t forget the [Formed](#) site if your church is a member. There are so many great movies, and several youth resources. If you are unsure, check with your parish office to see if your community subscribes to Formed.

Our Faith Formation team will be putting together a list of Masses online in our diocese. Sr. Tina sent me this link for use in the meantime: <https://mass-online.org/>.

*There is a searchable list of [food pantries](#) online. This link will also be on other pages of the diocesan website. You can search by city or zip code.

This prayer is on the diocesan website. Pray it every day and know you are in communion with our whole church.



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot receive you at this moment sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.