

Family: Being the Church at Home

One of the documents of the Second Vatican Council – Lumen Gentium (“Light of the Nations”) – describes **the family as the “domestic Church.”** In paragraph 11 it states:

“Christian spouses, in virtue of the sacrament of Matrimony, whereby they signify and partake of the mystery of that unity and fruitful love which exists between Christ and His Church, **help each other to attain to holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children.**”

“**The family is, so to speak, the domestic church.** In it parents should, by their word and example, be the **first preachers of the faith to their children...**”

The recognition that the family is the primary place where we learn and share the faith is especially pertinent in this time of pandemic when our Church buildings are closed.

So how do we go about being ‘domestic Church?’ We do so in much the same way that the larger Church does. We focus on the **Word, Worship and Service.** Below are resources that may help you fulfill your mission as domestic Church during these extraordinary times:

Word: Break open the Word as a family and be formed by the teachings of the Church.

Catechist Café – Resources and Ideas for Faith Formation from the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown Office of Religious Education. <https://catechistcafe.weebly.com/coronavirus-response.html> Scroll past the RCIA Information.

Also, lots of resources on Holy Week may be found at <https://catechistcafe.weebly.com/holy-week--easter.html>

Especially For Adults and Married Couples:

Busted Halo <https://bustedhalo.com/>

The Word on Fire Institute <https://www.wordonfire.org/>

Formed – “The Catholic Faith. On demand. Get thousands of movies, programs, audio, and books instantly. Formed is offering 40 day complimentary subscriptions at <https://formed.org/faithathome>

Christopher West You Tube Channel – Dr. Christopher West of the Theology of the Body Institute. Look for series of shorter videos entitled “Finding Peace in Troubling Times.” <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCleUptk8l6KEuJpVOWCYJ-w>

Virtual Catholic Conference April 3-5, 2020 <https://www.virtualcatholicconference.com/>

Worship: It may sound trite, but it is true that “the family that prays together stays together.”

Catechist Café – Resources and Ideas for Faith Formation from the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown Office of Religious Education. <https://catechistcafe.weebly.com/coronavirus-response.html> Scroll down to the purple and red box plus the items below it.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops “Catholic Current” has “Resources for Prayer and Engagement during Coronavirus.”
https://catholiccurrent.org/covid19/?mc_cid=653133a134&mc_eid=7734c10162

For Your Marriage, a website sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has “Building Family Bonds during COVID-19” <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/building-family-bonds-in-challenging-times/> and “Newlyweds in the Time of Coronavirus” <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/newlyweds-in-the-time-of-coronavirus/>

Keep Watch and Pray <https://keepwatchandpray.com/>

Pope Francis had an inspiring mediation at his extraordinary Urbi et Orbi Blessing on March 27, 2020. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/urbi-et-orbi-pope-coronavirus-prayer-blessing.html>

The Vatican has granted special indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic.
<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/03/20/200320c.htm>
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Service: Put your faith into action, even if you can’t leave your home.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops “Catholic Current” has “Resources for Prayer and Engagement during Coronavirus.” Scroll to the bottom of the page and look for the boxes marked “Practical Tips for Families” and “Reach Out.”
https://catholiccurrent.org/covid19/?mc_cid=653133a134&mc_eid=7734c10162

Some General Advice:

Catechist Café – Resources and Ideas for Faith Formation from the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown Office of Religious Education. <https://catechistcafe.weebly.com/coronavirus-response.html> See the first lilac colored box

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops “Catholic Current” has “Resources for Prayer and Engagement during Coronavirus.” Scroll to the bottom of the page and look for the boxes marked “Practical Tips” and “Practical Tips for Families.”
https://catholiccurrent.org/covid19/?mc_cid=653133a134&mc_eid=7734c10162