



Opportunities for Evangelization, Catechesis, Sacramental Preparation and Faith Formation

Updated by the Diocese of London August 2019



DIOCESE OF
LONDON

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 - denotes Canadian material

 - denotes new material and/or new section

Parish Evangelization:

Alpha

<https://www.alphacanada.org/>

The Alpha experience provides an intentional space for the kerygma to be proclaimed and where we can provide others an opportunity for encountering Jesus Christ. Alpha works at the pre-evangelization level and the evangelization level. It is a great starting point for people of all ages to build relationships and share in faith discussions. This is not a catechetical program. It is an entry point for those seeking faith.



Parish Missions

Please note: In the Diocese of London Parish Catechetical Resources Survey, many parishes reported hosting a Parish Mission. We are working on developing a list of potential speakers. Please let us know about your parish mission (theme and speaker) so that we can share your recommendations with others.



Catholics Returning Home

<http://www.catholicsreturninghome.org/index.php>



As the title suggests *Catholics Returning Home* is a parish-based program meant to invite non-practicing Catholics back to actively participate in the Church. The program is recognized by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Parish Based Renewal

Amazing Parish

<https://amazingparish.org/>

The *Amazing Parish* movement seeks to equip pastors and pastoral teams with resources so that they can create vibrant and thriving parishes. They note that, while each parish is different, there are three common “building blocks” that form the foundation of an amazing parish.



Divine Renovation



<https://www.divinerenovation.net/>

Their goal is to inspire and equip parishes to become mission oriented so that each parish can bring people to Jesus.



Rebuilt Parish

<http://rebuiltparish.com>

Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, and Making Church Matter invites pastoral teams and the faithful to examine the question “How can we make the Church matter to Catholics?” The answer lies at the heart of the Gospel! Rebuilt is not so much a program as it is mindset and approach to ministry.

Professional Development Reading

Suggested reading for parish teams:

Pope Francis. [The Joy of the Gospel](#) (*Evangelii Gaudium*). Vatican. 2013. Please see below for more regarding availability, study guides and other resources.

Cardinal Ratzinger. [New Evangelization: Building the Civilization of Love](#). Address to Catechists and Religion Teachers Jubilee of Catechists, December 2000.

Sherry Waddell. [Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus](#). Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, 2012. (After reading this you may be interested in Sherry Waddell's [Becoming a Parish of Intentional Disciples](#) (2015) and [Fruitful Discipleship: Living the Mission of Jesus](#).)

James Mallon. [Divine Renovation: From Maintenance to a Missional Parish](#). Toronto: Novalis, 2014. 🍁

Michael White and Tom Corcoran. [Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost and Making Church Matter](#). Notre Dame, Indiana: Ave Marie Press, 2013.

Pat Lencioni and John Martin. Amazing Parish. <https://amazingparish.org>. The website offers many podcasts.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis. [Living as Missionary Disciples: A Resource for Evangelization \(Leadership Resource\)](#). For more information: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/living-disciples/index.cfm>. This resource offers a series of reflection questions that can lead to great discussions. Consider this as tool for Pastoral team discernment.



Jezreel, Jack. [A New Way to Be Church: Parish Renewal from the Outside In](#). Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2018.



Durocher, Paul-Andre (Archbishop). [Called by Name, Sent in His Name; Reflectionson an Outward-bound Church](#). Toronto: Novalis Publishing, 2019. 🍁



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church. [Creating a Culture of Encounter: A Guide for Joyful Missionary Disciples](#). Washington, D.C., 2019.



‘Small church’ reflection and discussion – Suggested CCCB Documents:

‘Small Church’ – a small group of adults who gather to reflect on their lives in the light of the Gospel and to share their Christian faith through prayer, friendship and service.

The Co-responsibility of the Lay Faithful in the Church and the World

http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/CCCB_Co-responsibility_EN-web.pdf

This pastoral letter explores the great responsibility of the laity in God’s plan for the world, in which they are not simply collaborators of the clergy but are truly “co-responsible” for the Church’s being and acting.

The Essential Elements of Evangelization Today

http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/Evangelization_Today_English.pdf

Written from the current Canadian context, the text emphasizes that “spreading faith in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of humanity, is the Church’s fundamental and primary mission”. The reflection is primarily for pastors and those who serve in parishes, but also for all Catholics who wish to understand better the role of the parish in the Church’s mission.

The Missionary Dynamic of the Church Today

http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/CCCB_Parish_web.pdf

Written from the current Canadian context, the text emphasizes that “spreading faith in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of humanity, is the Church’s fundamental and primary mission”. The reflection is primarily for pastors and those who serve in parishes, but also for all Catholics who wish to understand better the role of the parish in the Church’s mission.

A Church Seeking Justice: The Challenge of Pope Francis to the Church in Canada

<http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/184-902.pdf>

Dealing broadly with the themes of Human Dignity and Labour, War and Peace, and the Economics of Exclusion and Isolation, this document outlines the freshness and urgency with which Pope Francis is calling us to act for justice and offers reflection questions tailored to our Canadian context.

I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: Pastoral Letter on Welcoming Refugees

http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/Pastoral_Letter_Refugees.pdf

This Pastoral Letter aims at making Canadian Catholics more aware of the current situation, while also challenging them to make a difference in the lives of refugees through prayer, support, and the sponsorship of families.

Our Evangelical Neighbours: A Catholic Reflection on Evangelical Christianity

http://www.cccb.ca/site/images/stories/pdf/CCCB_Our_Neighbours_e-web.pdf

The resource provides Catholics in Canada an introduction to Evangelical Christianity by exploring its origins, similarities and differences to Catholicism.

'Small church' reflection and discussion - Pope Francis Documents

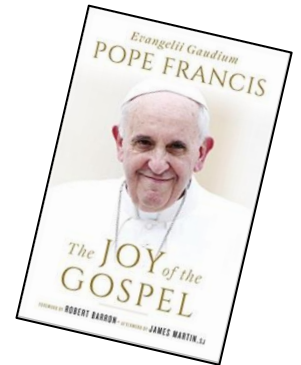
Evangelii Gaudium - The Joy of the Gospel

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html

Study Guide from the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice: [*The Joy of the Gospel: A resource for discussion and reflection on the letter of Pope Francis in today's world.*](#)

Other study guides:

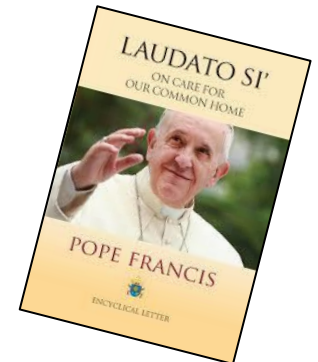
- Pauline Press: [Study and Reflection Guide](#)
- Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay, NSW Australia: [Seven Challenges from Pope Francis: A pastoral resource based on Evangelii Gaudium](#)
- God's Mission Joy of the Gospel – Resources ([click here](#))



Laudato Si': On Care For Our Common Home

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html


Pope Francis 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* is a call to us to help humanity understand the destruction that we are rendering to the environment and to our neighbour. At the same time the encyclical examines the many philosophical, theological, and cultural causes that threaten the relationships of the person and communities to nature and between each person and others.



For Pope Francis, building on the Documents of Vatican II and manifested in his work and writings as Bishop and Cardinal, care for others, promoting human development and caring for the earth is an expression of faith and are important elements of evangelization.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace prepared "*Living Out Laudato Si': A Commentary and Practical Resource for Canadian Catholics*". [Click here](#)

Other study guides:

- Jesuit Forum for Social Faith and Justice: [On care for our common home: A dialogue guide for Laudato Si'](#)
- United States Catholic Conference of Bishops *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home Discussion Guide*
- Study Guide for Laudato Si' created by The Interfranciscan Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation [click here](#)
- Laudato Si' Resources can be found at the Global Catholic Climate Movement Website (or [click here](#))
- Archdiocese of Washington ([click here](#))
-  Archdiocese of Atlanta ([click here](#))

Amoris Laetitia – The Joy of Love

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20160319_amoris-laetitia.html

Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* brings together the results of the two Synods on the family convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 and 2015. The exhortation cites their Final Reports; documents and teachings of his Predecessors; and his own numerous catecheses on the family.



The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Office for Evangelization and Catechesis and the Catholic Organization for Life and Family have created a video guide and reflection Guide. This can be found at:

[English Webcast Series – Reflection Guide](#); or [French Webcast Series – Guide de réflexion](#)

Other study guides:

- For a study guide from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles: [click here](#)
- For a study guide from the Grey Sisters of Canada: [click here](#)

Other Resources:

- Catholic Organization for Life and Family (www.colf.ca): [“The Joy of Love” At the heart of the Family](#)”



Gaudete et Exsultate - Rejoice and Be Glad

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html



“Rejoice and be glad!” is what Jesus said on the Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you (Mt 5:11-12). It is also the title of Pope Francis’ new apostolic exhortation on holiness in everyday life. Pope Francis reminds us: Jesus tells those persecuted or humiliated for his sake: ‘Rejoice and be glad’. Pope Francis goes on to say, “The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence.”

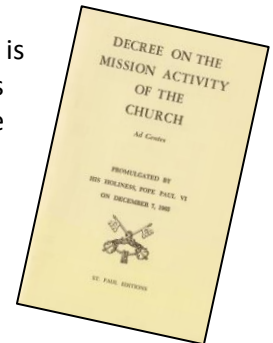
- Bayard Faith Resources (<https://todaywithchrist.com/products/rejoice-and-be-glad>) sells Bill Huebsch’s study guide booklet *Rejoice and Be Glad: A Group Reading Guide to Pope Francis’ Gaudete et Exsultate*. If the booklet is purchased in bulk, parishes can save money.
- Official video: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-04/pope-s-exhortation-gaudete-et-exsultate-.html#play>

-  Archdiocese of Washington. Rejoice Be Glad – Reflection Guide ([click here](#))
-  Diocese of London. Rejoice and Be Glad Notes (COMING JANUARY 2020)

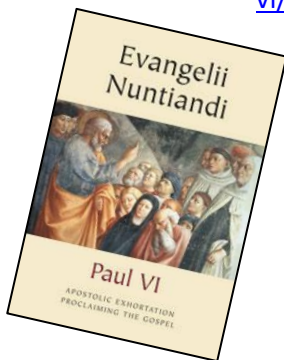
Documents from the Holy See

Ad Gentes - http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651207_ad-gentes_en.html

Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church (Ad Gentes). “The pilgrim church is missionary by her very nature,” this decree states. Love and esteem for others should characterize this task. Missionaries must understand the culture where they will serve. They especially should be prepared for dialogue with non-Christian religions and cultures. It calls missionary activity the church’s “greatest and holiest task.”



Evangelii Nuntiandi - http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19751208_evangelii-nuntiandi.html



Sacramental Preparation Resources

The following list represents some of the resources being used by our parishes for sacramental preparation. You may want to review these resources in light of the *Evaluation Tool* found below.

Baptism

Diocesan Directives:

[Criteria for Administration of the Sacraments of Initiation, First Penance and Marriage](#) (2016)

Print Resources

- Bernadette Gasslein. Your Child's Baptism. Novalis. (www.en.novalis.ca) 🍁
- Bernadette Gasslein and Patrick Gallagher. Being a Godparent. Novalis. (www.en.novalis.ca) 🍁
- Fr. Mike Schmitz. Belonging: Baptism in the Family of God. Ascension Press. (Parent preparation resource)
- Emily Strand. Your Baby's Baptism. Liguori Press.
- Strong Catholic Families, Strong Catholic Youth (National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry www.nfcym.org)
- Catholic Parent Know-How: Preparing Your Child – Baptism. Our Sunday Visitor. (Parent resource. They also have a Godparent Resource: Catholic Parent Know-How: How to Be a Godparent check www.osv.com).
- Baby's Baptism: Sacrament of Welcome. St. Anthony's Messenger Press. (Parent resource from Franciscan Media)
- Deborah McCann. Celebrating Your Child's Baptism. Twenty-Third Publications. (available in Polish)

DVD Series

- Peg Bowman. *Celebrating Sacrament*. The Pastoral Center
- Fr. Jim Deiters. *Your Baby's Baptism: Welcome to God's Family*. Liguori Publications

Good Practices

- Pastoral visit with Family prior to and after Baptism
- Face-to-face small group sessions
- Baptism Anniversary Card Banner with pictures
- Newsletter sent each year on baptism anniversary
- Staying in contact and inviting participation by email
- Tots program on Sunday for new born to age two; Children's Church for ages three and four
- Monthly Parents and Preschoolers programs – raising children in the Catholic Faith

Other Resources

- Catechism of the Catholic Church: Baptism 1213-1284. Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Baptism 252-264; and, Code of Canon Law: Baptism 849-878).
- Why we Baptize (www.bustedhalo.com)
- Catholic Update
- *Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth. Reborn Series* (www.formed.org) - need to register/login

First Eucharist

Diocesan Directives

- [Criteria for Administration of the Sacraments of Initiation, First Penance and Marriage](#) (2016)
- [Pastoral Care of our Catholic Schools](#)

Print Resources

- [Together in Jesus Program – First Eucharist](#) (student book and teaching guide). Pflaum Publishing.
- [Called to His Supper: A Preparation for First Eucharist](#) (student book and teaching guide). Our Sunday Visitor.
- Francine O'Connor. *First Communion*. Liguori Publications (Spanish and English)
- Françoise Darcy-Berube & Jean-Paul Berube. [We Share in the Eucharist](#). (child/family book and leader's guide; also available in French). Novalis. 🍁
- Rosemarie Gortler and Donna Piscitelli. [The Mass Book For Children](#). Our Sunday Visitor. (child's resource)
- Rosemarie Gortler and Donna Piscitelli. [Little Acts of Grace](#). Our Sunday Visitor. (child's resource)
- Jeanine Timko Lechner. [Joy, Joy the Mass](#). Our Sunday Visitor (child's booklet)
- Jeanine Timko Lechner. [Called to His Supper](#). Our Sunday Visitor (for family/home use)
- Doris Murphy. Learning Centers for First Eucharist and Reconciliation. Twenty-Third Publications (parish use)

DVD Series

- *The Dynamic Catholic First Communion and First Reconciliation Experience*. "Blessed"

Good Practices

- Orientation evening for families
- Knowing what the students are learning in school – *Growing in Faith-Growing in Christ*.
- Small groups of children led by catechist; parents with adult faith formation program in separate room
- Parent led small groups
- Classes following Sunday Mass
- Moving from First Reconciliation preparation classes to First Communion classes
- Remembering not all our participants are in Catholic Schools; program for students in public schools
- Having a retreat for students (and parents)
- After first communion with family; all invited to communal celebration of the Eucharist (Corpus Christi Sunday)
- Ongoing School Visits
- Emails with: invitations to parish events and to become involved; birthday wishes; summer camp

Other Resources

- *Adaptive First Eucharist Preparation Kit: for individuals with Autism and other Special Needs*. Loyola Press
- *Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth. Reborn Series* (www.formed.org) - need to register/login
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church: Baptism 1213-1284. Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Baptism 252-264; and, Code of Canon Law: Baptism 849-878).*

First Reconciliation

Diocesan Directives

- [Criteria for Administration of the Sacraments of Initiation, First Penance and Marriage](#) (2016)
- [Pastoral Care of our Catholic Schools](#)

Print Resources

- [Together in Jesus Program – First Reconciliation](#) (student book and teaching guide). Pflaum Publishing.
- Francoise Darcy-Berube & Jean-Paul Berube [We Prepare for Reconciliation](#). Novalis child/family book and leader’s guide; also available in French). Novalis. 🍁
- Jeanine Timko Leichner. [Making Things Right \(Revised\)](#). Our Sunday Visitor (for family/home use).
- Doris Murphy. Learning Centers for First Eucharist and Reconciliation. Twenty-Third Publications. (parish use).
- Francine O’Connor. *First Penance*. Liguori Publications (Spanish and English)
- Peg Bowman. At Home with the Sacraments: Reconciliation. Twenty-Third Publications. (parent resource).

DVD Series

- *The Dynamic Catholic First Communion and First Reconciliation Experience*. “Blessed”

Good Practices

- Orientation evening for families
- Knowing what the students are learning in school – *Growing in Faith-Growing in Christ*.
- Small groups of children led by catechist; parents adult faith formation program in separate room
- Parent led small groups
- Classes following Sunday Mass
- Moving from First Reconciliation preparation classes to First Communion classes
- Remembering not all our participants are in Catholic Schools; program for students in public schools
- Having a retreat for students (and parents)
- After first communion with family; all invited to communal celebration of the Eucharist (Corpus Christi Sunday)
- Ongoing School Visits
- Emails with: invitations to parish events and to become involved; birthday wishes; summer camp

Other Resources

- *Adaptive Reconciliation Kit: for individuals with Autism and other Special Needs*. Loyola Press
- *Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth. Reborn Series* (www.formed.org) - need to register/login
- “Lump” www.nooma.com
- Brother Francis videos (available on YouTube)
- [Catechism of the Catholic Church: Reconciliation 1422-1498](#). [Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Reconciliation 296-312](#); and, [Code of Canon Law: Reconciliation 959-997](#).

Confirmation

Diocesan Directives

- [Criteria for Administration of the Sacraments of Initiation, First Penance and Marriage](#) (2016)
- [Pastoral Care of our Catholic Schools](#)

Print Resources

- Margaret Bick & Catherine Ecker. *Alive in the Spirit (Confirmation)*. Novalis (Liturgical Training Publications). 🍁
- David Dayler & Anne Jamieson. *Gifted By God (Confirmation)*. Novalis (Liturgy Training Pub.). 🍁
- Sherry Gieser. *Opening Gifts Confirmation*. Our Sunday Visitor.
- Steven Givens. *Getting Confirmed: A Journey of Questions and Answers*. Liguori Publications.
- Chris Stefanick & Ron Boster. *Chosen*. Ascension Press. (Student Workbook, Sponsor Guide and Parent Guide).
- Debbie Repp. *Confirmation for Teens*. Liguori.

DVD Series

- *Dynamic Catholic Decision Point*
- *Chosen: Your Journey Towards Confirmation*. Ascension Press
- Chris Stefanick. *Real Life Catholic*. YouTube

Good Practices

- Orientation evening for families
- Knowing what the students are learning in school – *Religious Education*.
- Small groups of children led by catechist; parents with adult faith formation program in separate room
- Promoting community service projects
- Classes following Sunday Mass
- Remembering not all our participants are in Catholic Schools; program for students in public schools
- Having a retreat for students
- Ongoing School Visits
- Regular opportunities to celebrate the sacrament at the school
- Cards/Emails with: invitations to parish events/ministry/youth activities/Squires and Squirettes/ GR8 Fest/CCLC/ to help with future Confirmation preparation classes

Other Resources



- *Alpha Confirmation Program for Youth*
- YOUCAT (#203-207) “Lump” www.nooma.com
- Catechism of the Catholic Church: Confirmation 1285-1321. Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Confirmation 265-270; and, Code of Canon Law: Confirmation 897-958.

Marriage

Diocesan Directives

- [Criteria for Administration of the Sacraments of Initiation, First Penance and Marriage](#) (2016)

Print Resources

- The Order of Celebrating Matrimony. (available from Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops). 
- Dr. M. Feehan. [What God Has Joined: Preparing for Marriage in the Catholic Church](#). Novalis. 
- [Celebrating Our Love](#). Novalis
- Susan and John Midgley. [A Decision to Love: A Marriage Preparation Program](#). Twenty-Third Publications. (Different Resources. Please note: not sold outside of the United States)
- John Bosio, Teri Bosio. [Joined by Grace](#). Ave Maria Press
- Joan Vienna and Virginia Metoyer, [Picture of Love](#). Church Publishing Incorporated

DVD Series

- [Catholic Marriage Prep](#). The Marriage Group

Premarital Inventories

- [Catholic Couple Checkup](#). The Marriage Group
- [Foccus Pre-Marriage Inventory](#). Archdiocese of Omaha
- [Fully Engaged](#). Diocese of St. Cloud
- [Better Together](#). Dynamic Catholic

Good Practices

- Face-to-face meetings with the couple
- Seek opportunities to build on their desire to be Married in the Catholic Church
- Engaged and Marriage Encounters offered by people they recognize
- Partner couples with a Mentor Couple to support them

Other Resources

- Engaged Encounter and/or Marriage Preparation courses
- *Alpha*
- <http://www.catholicmarriageprep.com/>
- Family Ministries Archdiocese of Chicago

Adult Faith Formation

The following list represents some of the resources being used by our parishes to for adult faith formation. You may want to review these resources in light of the Evaluation Tool found below.

Faith Formation

- Fr. Michael Ryan. In Light of the Faith. Nelson Education. <https://school.nelson.com/in-the-light-of-faith>
- Fr. Michael Ryan. Handing on the Faith: A Resource for Evangelization. Nelson Education. <https://school.nelson.com/handing-on-the-faith-a-resource-for-evangelization>
These books are ideal for small group discussion. Each chapter comes with a series of questions that encourages reflection and discussion.
- Catholic Updates
- Check out the long list of books available from [Dynamic Catholic](#). Many of their books are available for free with shipping & handling charge.

Social Justice

- Fr. Michael Ryan. Social Attitudes of a Catholic. Nelson Education. <https://school.nelson.com/the-social-attitudes-of-a-catholic/>
This book is ideal for small group discussion. Each chapter comes with a series of questions for reflection.

Bible Study

- The Word Among Us – Subscription and online (<https://wau.org>)
- *Little Rock Scripture Study* (<https://littlerockscripture.org/>)
- Jeff Cavins Bible Study – Ascension Press ([click here](#))
- Jeff Cavins. *The Great Adventure Catholic Bible Study*. (<https://biblestudyforcatholics.com/>)
- *Walking with God: A Journey through the Bible*. Ascension Press ([click here](#))

Sacraments

- Lectio Eucharist. Lighthouse Catholic Media ([click here](#))

General Evangelization and Catechesis

- *Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained*. Augustine Institute Lighthouse Media ([click here](#))
- Cursillo
- Alpha

Pre-school Catechesis

- (Online Resource) Catholic Mom (<http://catholicmom.com/>) has some wonderful ideas in the "Pre K Lesson Plans" section (<http://catholicmom.com/education-2/pre-k-lesson-plans/>) and in the "Catholic Gospel Colouring and Worksheets for Sunday Mass" section (<http://catholicmom.com/kids/catholic-gospel-coloring-worksheets-sunday-mass/>)
- (Print resource) *God Made Me* and *God Made Everything*: print resources designed to nurture the faith lives of children ages 3-5. (Loyola Press - <https://www.loyolapress.com/faith-formation/early-learning/god-made-me-and-god-made-the-world>)
- (Online Resource) Messy Family Project: <https://www.messyfamilyproject.org/about/https://www.messyfamilyproject.org/about/> (You may need a membership to search)
- The Strong Catholic Families Resource: [*Taking a Family Faith Inventory*](#).
- (Online Resource) While this one is not Catholic, but has good resources... for building healthy families.
<https://keepconnected.searchinstitute.org/understanding-ages-and-stages/ages-3-5/https://keepconnected.searchinstitute.org/understanding-ages-and-stages/ages-3-5/https://keepconnected.searchinstitute.org/understanding-ages-and-stages/ages-3-5/> As you view this page, you will see links to the intellectual, emotional, physical, social and spiritual - these links offer practical suggestions to nurture growth. See below for the snapshot of the spiritual link.

