

The US Bishops wrote in their landmark document, *“Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us:”*

- We seek to form *parishes* that are vitally alive in faith. These communities will provide a parish climate and an array of activities and resources designed to help adults more fully understand and live their faith.
- We seek to form *adults* who actively cultivate a lively baptismal and eucharistic spirituality with a powerful sense of mission and apostolate. Nourished by word, sacrament, and communal life, they will witness and share the Gospel in their homes, neighborhoods, places of work, and centers of culture.¹

To that end, we are forging ahead with our priority of building adult faith formation here at Holy Name of Jesus. Adult faith formation can take on many forms – we have Scripture study groups that meet two mornings a week that look at the upcoming Sunday readings. We have a faith sharing group for men that meets on Friday mornings. We also have the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, which helps people learn about the Catholic faith and journey towards receiving the sacraments and becoming fully-initiated Catholics. We also have a Confirmation class that will help adults learn more about their faith so they can be confirmed.

We are going to be starting new ministries in the future – several women “of a certain age” have indicated an interest in a faith-sharing group. We have parishioners who want to restart our practice of having a parish mission. Our Young Adult group is restarting after a break forced by Covid gathering restrictions. We are also looking at book clubs and groups that explore Ignatian spirituality.

This Advent, we are launching a new way of reflecting. Each Saturday of Advent, our own pastor, Rev. Mark E. Thibodeaux, SJ, will be releasing a video reflection on the season. We will then be hosting a live discussion session of the video on the following Monday night at 8 p.m. as a Facebook Live event on the parish’s Facebook page. We’re very excited about this development and will give details in the next few weeks of the bulletin, on our Facebook page, and on our newly-redesigned web page, <http://hnychurch.org>.

Ignatian spirituality has a bedrock principle of the *Magis*, which means “the more.” Every time we reach out to learn more about our faith, we are engaging in faith formation. Reaching for “the more” doesn’t have to be in the shape of an official program. Many read the readings of the day – that’s adult formation! Your Google searches of things you see and hear at Mass – that’s adult formation! Answering a friend’s inquiry about why you are Catholic is a form of adult formation too!

We hope at Holy Name of Jesus to offer you a variety of opportunities to explore your faith and help it grow in a way that honors your abilities as an adult to question, think deeply, and have your soul nourished in our great Roman Catholic faith.

¹ Washington, DC: Office of Pub. Services, US Catholic Conference, 1999. Print. *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us: A Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation in the United States*. #17