

# DYNAMIC PARISH

BE BOLD. BE CATHOLIC.

## Dynamic Parish 2019-2020 | November Launch Year One Theme: Invitation

	Entire Parish	Particular Audience(s)
<b>September (2019)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pastor Executive Coaching Begins</li> <li>● Implementation Team is appointed</li> <li>● Baseline Data Report</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I-Team and parish staff orientation &amp; info session</li> <li>● Implementation Team Meeting(s)</li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Launch of Dynamic Parish to parishioners</li> <li>● <i>Bigger Future Survey 2019</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pastor trip to Cincinnati</li> </ul>
<b>December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Christmas Gift – Book: <i>Rediscover the Saints</i></li> <li>● [Dream Event: Boston and Kansas City]</li> </ul>	
<b>January (2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● [Dream Event: St. Petersburg and San Diego]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Catholic Moments Introduction. Meeting with key parish stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Signups for BEST LENT EVER Email Program</li> <li>● Distribution of BLE Journals on Ash Wednesday – February 26</li> <li>● BEST LENT EVER &amp; Lenten Small Groups (BLE)</li> <li>● [Dream Event: Regions (TBD)]</li> </ul>	
<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BEST LENT EVER &amp; Lenten Small Groups (BLE) continued</li> <li>● [Dream Event: Regions (TBD)]</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Share results from <i>Bigger Future Survey</i></li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Easter Gift (April 12) – Book: <i>Rediscover Jesus</i></li> </ul>	
<b>May</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Begin WELCOME planning for 2021</li> </ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Summer Email Program Signup</li> <li>● Summer Gift (Book): <i>Three Days</i></li> </ul>	
<b>July</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baseline data update for past fiscal year</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce DYNAMIC CATECHIST resources to all teachers and catechists</li> <li>● Utilize BLESSED and DECISION POINT as appropriate</li> </ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mass Journal Launch</li> </ul>	
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Bigger Future Survey 2020</i></li> <li>● Pilgrimage 2021-2022 Opportunities</li> </ul>	
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Signups for Catholic Moment BEST ADVENT EVER and Advent Discussion Groups</li> <li>● Introduction to Year of Prayer (Year 2 Theme)</li> </ul>	

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## Initiative Descriptions (Year 1)

Dynamic Catholic has been inspiring Catholics to rediscover the genius of Catholicism through the development of world-class resources and life-changing events for a decade. We will spend the next decade helping parish communities grow and thrive through Dynamic Parish beginning with a five-year pilot program at no cost to parishes.

During the pilot phase, Dynamic Catholic will invest a half million dollars or more in each parish through engaging and energizing **events, programs, resources, consulting, and coaching**. Everything we do will seek to create moments of personal transformation because we believe that God doesn't transform parishes all-at-once, but rather God transforms people one-at-a-time.

### 1. Begin Pastor Executive Coaching Program

- The life of a pastor can be demanding and isolating. The need for a trusted coach, removed from the many inner-connections of a parish is a great resource for a church leader. While pastors face the typical challenges of leading an organization, this coaching program is specifically catered to priestly leadership in a parish setting.
- The coaching program will typically focus on enhancing decision-making, parish life, personal life and the unexpected. The pastor will meet with the executive coach twice per month via videoconference.

### 2. Launch Dynamic Parish

- Launch Sunday involves a pastor message, video message from Dynamic Catholic and Matthew Kelly, and a 20-page booklet that provides an overview of Dynamic Parish.
- The goals of the launch weekend are threefold:
  - 1) to build excitement that the parish has been selected for this journey
  - 2) to spark every parishioner to begin dreaming of what their parish could be like in 5, 10 or 20 years
  - 3) to begin the work to make that richly envisioned future a reality.

### 3. Survey your Parishioners: *Dynamic Catholic Bigger Future Survey*

- Survey Sunday is the weekend after Launch Sunday to capitalize on the momentum begun during the launch and gather baseline data on the level of engagement in current parishioners to measure progress over time.
- The *Dynamic Catholic Bigger Future Survey* is 25 questions long and takes 4-7 minutes to complete and is based on the research presented in *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*. Responses allow the parish to identify the number of Dynamic Catholics in the parish (those that have habits of daily **prayer**, regular **study** of the faith, **generosity** in their service and giving to the parish, and **evangelization**). The survey also measures faith attitudes (such as whether the respondent is proud to be Catholic) and asks demographic questions to allow us to segment the data within and across parishes.

### 4. Distribute Christmas Gift (Book): *Rediscover the Saints*

- The Dynamic Catholic Christmas Book Program is one of the most successful evangelization initiatives in the Catholic Church. Since 33% or more of those who come to Christmas Mass are not regular parishioners, the gift of a book by a friendly greeter not only warmly welcomes them to the community but also provides a life-changing resource to them. The right book at the right time can lead someone to resolve to change his/her life for the better. Tens of thousands of conversions and reversions have been sparked by the Book Program.
- The 2019 book is "Rediscover the Saints" by Matthew Kelly. This is not just another book about the saints. Both personal and practical, this book proves the saints are not long gone, but alive and well—and ready to join you on your journey! Discover how inviting the saints into your everyday life will open your eyes to the amazing possibilities God has in store for you!

- We are capable of so much more than we think. You have no idea what you are capable of. None of us do. God is constantly trying to open our eyes to the amazing possibilities that he has enfolded in our being. The saints continue this work, encouraging us to explore all our God-given potential, not with speeches but with the example of their lives. When we have the courage to collaborate with God and pursue our truest self, he lights a fire within us that is so bright and warm, it keeps shining long after our days on this earth have come to an end. The lives of the saints have captivated the people of every age for this very reason.
- Parishioners will be encouraged to have small group discussions on the themes of the book.

## 5. Host *The Dream Event*

- The Dream Event is a 90-minute dream exercise, led by Executive Coach and Dream Manager Tony Ferraro, and the first event of Dynamic Parish. Attendees will discover their personal dreams, experience inspiration from others' dreams, and participate in "dreamstorming" powerful ideas for the future of their parish.
- A key theme of the event is that dreaming is one of the most wonderful gifts God has given us. We are able to look into the future and imagine something bigger and better for our lives. Then return to the present and work to bring about that bigger, better future. Parish communities can only become the-best-version-of-themselves in so much as the people who make up the parish become the-best-version-of-themselves. We sincerely believe dreaming is the first step towards sustainable parish renewal.
- The dreaming of parishioners, half completed by text messaging with is projected in "word bubbles" and the other half by personal journaling, unleashes a momentum to become fully engaged in living one's dreams, helping others to achieve personal dreams, and contributing to build an even more dynamic parish.
- Parishioners will be encouraged to create a list of 100 dreams across 12 categories and then meet with other parishioners to discuss their dreams and help each other to achieve one at a time.

## 6. Catholic Moments Introduction Meeting

- Parish staff and i-team members will be introduced to the methodology and results of all of Dynamic Catholic's "Catholic Moments." DECISION POINT (Confirmation), BEST LENT EVER, BEST ADVENT EVER, BLESSED (First Reconciliation; First Communion), BETTER TOGETHER (Marriage preparation and enrichment); STARTING POINT (Birth and Baptism); DAILY PRAYER; RCIA, SUNDAY MASS, DEATH & DYING.

## 7. Promote *Best Lent Ever*

- Best Lent Ever is a free **daily email program** that will guide you and your parish on an incredible journey toward becoming a-better-version-of-yourself. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, you'll discover simple ways to transform your life in forty days. Parishioners sign up with their email and then on Ash Wednesday they start receiving daily emails with short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly, practical tips to incorporate into their everyday lives, and personal stories from Dynamic Catholic team members. Throughout Lent, participants will learn how to open their hearts to God and do more than just give up chocolate for Lent . . . leading to their best Lent ever.
- **Best Lent Ever Journals** are available to be shared on Ash Wednesday and the Sundays of Lent to make it easy for parishioners to capture their reflections on the Best Lent Ever videos.
- **Best Lent Ever Small Discussion Groups** are a way for people to share their reflections and hear those of their fellow parishioners. Dynamic Catholic has developed a discussion guide for each meeting.

## 8. Distribute Easter Gift (Book): *Rediscover Jesus*

- From Matthew Kelly: "How well do you know Jesus? I think about this often, and I always come to the same realization. I don't know Jesus anywhere near as well as I would like to know him. The desire is there, but life gets in the way. There are times when I seem to be making great progress, and other times when I wonder if I know him at all. But I always arrive back at the same inspiring and haunting idea: If there is one person that we should each get to know in a deeply personal way, it is Jesus – the carpenter from Nazareth, the itinerant preacher, the Son of God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the Lamb of God, the new Adam, the Messiah, the Alpha and the Omega, the Chosen One, the Light of the World, the God-Man who wants good things for us more than we want them for ourselves, the healer of our souls."
- "The best time to rediscover Jesus is right now. You are holding this book in your hand at this very moment for a reason. I don't know what God has in store for you, but I am excited for you. There are some questions that we

all ask ourselves in different ways: Who am I? Who is God? What am I here for? What matters most? What matters least? What are my unique talents and abilities? What will my contribution be? We discover the answers to these questions most completely by encountering Jesus. He longs to help us discover deeply personal answers to our deeply personal questions.

- Parishioners will be encouraged to have small group discussions on the themes of the book.

#### **9. Begin preparations for Welcome Retreat (by forming Men's and Women's retreat teams)**

- Welcome is an overnight weekend retreat experience that takes place at your parish. Through fellowship, faith sharing, hospitality, music, individual and group activities, Mass, and more, participants have the opportunity to step back from the everyday to reflect on their lives and their spiritual journeys and build meaningful relationships with other men or women in the parish. (Men and women attend separate weekends.)
- Parishioners will get personal clarity, be inspired to start living with a deeper sense of purpose, and be changed forever. Because they will develop deeper personal connections with other community members, they will be excited to come to church on Sunday and more involved in your parish community. When so many parishioners go through a life-changing experience like Welcome at your parish, your parish thrives.

#### **10. Distribute Summer Gift (Book) - Three Days**

- In the Bible we are told Jesus was lost in the temple for three days when he traveled to Jerusalem for Passover with Mary and Joseph. Why did he stay behind? What did he do? Who did he meet? Where did he sleep? Was he ever in danger? This Biblical novel is a compelling tale about 12-year-old Jesus, based on the second chapter of Luke's Gospel. This book will grip your imagination—as you explore the Temple and experience the drama of ancient Hebrew traditions with the boy Messiah.

#### **11. Promote Summer Email Program: Rediscover Jesus**

- Modeled on Best Lent Ever, The Summer Email Program is a free **daily email program** with video messages that will guide parishioners on an incredible journey toward learning more about Jesus. For 40 days over the summer, parishioners will discover a deeper appreciation for aspects of Jesus' life and teaching.

#### **12. Begin Catechist Formation program**

- Catechists play an enormous role in our parishes and in the faith development of our children. Catechists change lives by framing how young people experience God and they deserve the best training and support available.
- Dynamic Catholic's Catechist email program will remind catechists why they decided to invest in the next generation and will provide many ways to become more inspired, stay inspired, and inspire their students every time they enter the classroom. The program consists of videos emailed to catechists along with reflection questions, quotes, articles, and supplemental content to help catechists in their everyday lives.

#### **13. Order DECISION POINT for Confirmation Students & Families and BLESSED for First Communion and First Reconciliation Students & Families**

- DECISION POINT is the most used Confirmation program in America for a reason. It was specifically developed to engage young Catholics in a meaningful conversation about the genius of Catholicism. Until they are engaged, they won't absorb information about the faith and make it their own. That's why the content meets teens where they are in their everyday lives. DECISION POINT consists of 72 short films, a student workbook, and a leader guide.
- There's never been anything like BLESSED in the Catholic world for children. With world-class animation, workbooks that are works of art, and catechist-friendly leader guides, First Communion and First Reconciliation prep meets children where they are and leads them, step-by-step, to where God is calling them to be. BLESSED isn't just different, it's groundbreaking. There are 84 animated episodes to engage your children's sense of wonder and take them on an unforgettable adventure into the story of Jesus and the life-giving truths of his Church. There Is No Better Gift We Can Give Our Children.

#### 14. Distribute and promote Mass Journals:

- If you believed God was going to speak to you at Mass, you would listen, and you would likely bring pen and paper to make sure you wrote down what God wanted to say to you. That's why we will distribute Mass Journals to everyone in the parish. When we are actively listening for God's insights and advice, we can write them down in our Mass Journal, reflect on them during the week, and ask God's help to put those ideas into practice. Our experience of Mass will be changed forever!

#### 15. Announce pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi or the Holy Land for 2021 or 2022 (Optional)

- Pilgrimages open up our perspective like no other journey can. We don't just go to admire beauty and architecture, we go to visit holy place in order to increase our faith. For those seeking change, for better, does takes place during or after pilgrimage. As a pilgrim you go with intention, focus and desire, to be more holy.
- One of the most incredible desires that most of us have is to travel! The other is to dream. Our dreams intensify at their highest after we decide to go on a Pilgrimage. Imagine if every Catholic parish were overflowing with holy men and women who have walked where Jesus walked who are eager to share the Word to the world. Our Churches need pilgrims to be our vibrant Catholic community leaders. Catholics are hungry to learn best history and practices of our Church. Go on a pilgrimage - you will never be the same!
- There will be a per participant cost to attend these pilgrimages.

#### 16. Promote *Best Advent Ever*

- Best Advent Ever is a free **daily email program** with short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly and Allen Hunt, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories to encourage you in your journey toward Christmas. Before Christmas, many people get distracted and busy. Don't let Advent pass you by and instead focus on what matters most so that you can have your BEST ADVENT EVER followed by your best Christmas ever.