FLOURISHING FAITH

A flourishing congregation is grounded in a simple, life-giving truth: when we stay rooted in Christ, our daily lives naturally overflow with joy, purpose, and spiritual vitality. To help our communities continue to grow a vibrant spiritual life, we are anchoring our faith formation around four practical, interconnected rhythms:

- **Prayer & Spiritual Disciplines**
- **Christian Education & Study**
- **Worship & Sacramental Life**
- **Giving, Serving & Stewarding**

ROOTED & REACHING · MICRO-PRACTICE

ADVENT 1 - Resting in the Promise

Focus: Trust, Discernment, and Patient Hope

THE PRACTICE

Waiting in Advent is not empty delay; it is an invitation to rest in God's faithfulness while we watch for how God is already moving among us. Spiritual vitality means cultivating the courage to pause our rushing and quiet our personal agendas, creating space to listen deeply for the quiet promptings of the Spirit and discern where God is gently guiding our community next.

TRY THIS AT HOME

Place an Advent wreath or a simple candle in a central room of your home. Each evening, as you light a candle, take a few slow breaths and consciously release the pressures and timelines you are carrying. If you use a daily devotional or Advent calendar, let each day's reading serve as a gentle reminder to rest in God's timing rather than forcing your own outcomes.



PARISH REFLECTION

Patient leadership begins when we stop treating stillness as lost time and start recognizing it as the birthplace of true discernment. Where is God inviting you and our parish community to release anxious striving this season, and how can we better listen for the subtle signs of guidance already unfolding around us?

SCRIPTURE VERSE

"Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently." **— Psalm 37:7**