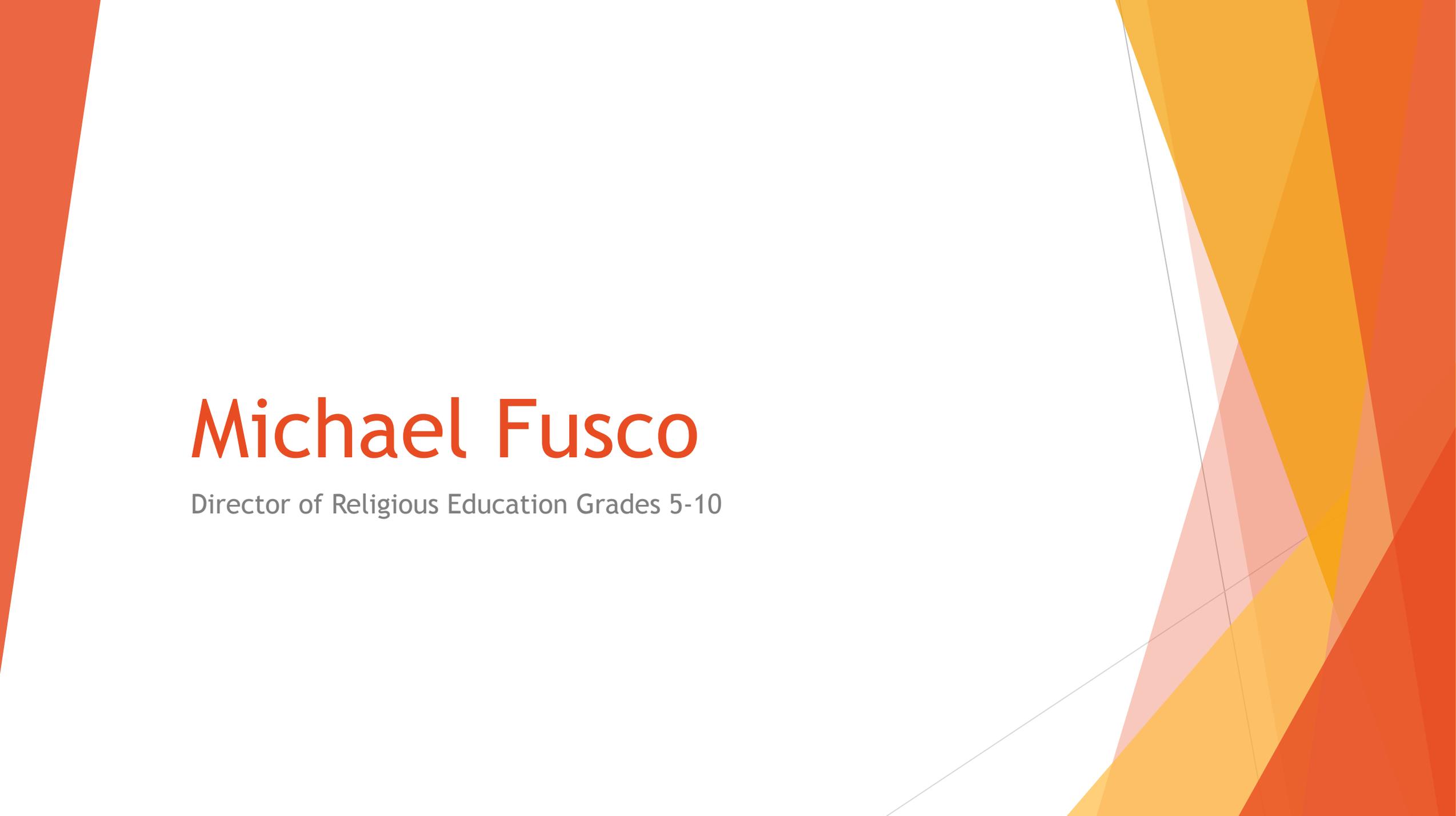




Spotlight Lesson 5
Saint Helen's Grades 5-8
The Synod and
Synodality

The background features abstract geometric shapes in shades of orange and yellow, primarily on the right side, with a white background on the left.

Michael Fusco

Director of Religious Education Grades 5-10

Guest Speakers

- ▶ Patty Rodriguez the Associate Director for Catechist Formation and Union County representative - Archdiocese of Newark
- ▶ Joanne DePasquale-Parent Associate Director for Family and Adult Faith Formation Archdiocese of Newark

Welcome and Rules for Livestream

- ▶ Have Fun!!
- ▶ Learn something from this event
- ▶ The chat room is to be used sparingly. You are welcomed to greet each other but during the session we request that it not be used unless we ask you to use it.
- ▶ Chat will be monitored by Saint Helen's staff
- ▶ Feel free to pass this along to others for their use. You can watch as many times as you like!

Opening Prayer

- ▶ Spirit of God, open our minds and hearts this day that we may truly understand your will as we journey together in this Synod. We ask this prayer in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN
- ▶ A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled,
they were all in one place together.
And suddenly there came from the sky
a noise like a strong driving wind,
and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to
them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.
And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
and began to speak in different tongues,
as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. Amen

Goals of the Lesson

- ▶ Learn what is a Synod and what is Synodality.
- ▶ We are called to listen to the Holy Spirit and share our thoughts with the greater church.
- ▶ Hear your answers to the questions we sent out.

What is a Synod?

- ▶ The term ‘synod’ is derived from the Greek *syn* (together) and *hodos* (way). Thus, it means ‘journey together’. It is no coincidence that ‘the way’ was the earliest name for Christianity recorded in scripture (see, for instance, Acts 9:2). Therefore, Christians have always seen themselves as journeying together. The term ‘synod’ has been used particularly in the history of the Church to refer to those times and moments where Bishops and other leaders have gathered to discern the direction the Holy Spirit intends for the Church

What is Synodality?

- ▶ A life of ‘synodality’ is not limited to the leadership of the Church, nor can it be appropriately experienced if it only remains exercised by a small, elite group. Pope Francis, on the contrary, describes ‘synodality’ as “the specific *modus vivendi et operandi* [way of living and operating] of the Church, the People of God, which reveals and gives substance to her being as communion when all her members journey together, gather in assembly and take an active part in her evangelizing mission” (Pope Francis, *Address at the Ceremony Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Institution of the Synod of Bishops*). In short, the idea of ‘journeying together’ is rooted in our very identity as God’s people and it is a fundamental characteristic of the Church.

What can we learn from this?

- ▶ What are your thoughts on life as a teenager in 2022 and beyond?
- ▶ What are important issues you want the church to address?
- ▶ What are ways your parish (Saint Helen) can offer programs for your age group.
- ▶ What are we doing well and what can we do better?
- ▶ How can the church reach out to those not involved?
- ▶ How can we get more people involved in the life, mission and work of the church?

Synod on Synodality- All You Need to Know (through Sketches and images)

<https://youtu.be/I5lAktuejwo>

Panel Discussion

Mike, Patty and Joanne will talk about the Synod and your role in this amazing process!

Questions for Today

1. What do you think are the biggest challenges facing young people today especially in middle and high school?
2. What is one positive thing that people your age can offer the church or society that would make an impact?
3. What is the best thing you have participated in here at the parish that helped you with your faith? (Spotlight lessons, speakers, large groups, service, attending mass, serving at mass etc.)
4. If you could sit down with Pope Francis, what is one thing you would tell him about young people today?
5. Does Saint Helens have enough programs for our youth to be involved with and in what ways can we do more?
6. What is one thing you wish we had here that would help you in your faith?2.

Action

- ▶ Look at the questions sent out to you, take time to read them, talk to your parents and family members about them. Pray about them. Write down your answers and submit them to us via email.
- ▶ Join the Zoom Listing session on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 7 pm with your family.
- ▶ Share this video with other members of your family and talk about it with your friends.
- ▶ Pray to the Holy Spirit for help and wisdom.
- ▶ Attend Mass regularly and experience Jesus in the Eucharist.
- ▶ Start a regular prayer life.
- ▶ Serve those in need more.

Closing Prayer

- ▶ Let us take a moment of quiet as we reflect on what we have done here today...
- ▶ A reading from the Letter of St. James 1:27 Dearest brothers and sisters: Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you... [and] Be doers of the word and not hearers only.
- ▶ Come Holy Spirit,
we ask you, that by your inspiration,
all of our prayer and actions always begin from you and inspire others to know you more deeply.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
- ▶ Amen
Let us go forth sharing a sign of peace.



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