



St Bernadette's Catholic Church

The Big Five: Evangelization

An introduction to



CHRISTLIFE™

CATHOLIC MINISTRY FOR EVANGELIZATION

“Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.”

- Pope Benedict

- Are you involved in a parish group?
- How many new people joined it this year?
- What's going to bring fresh blood into your group?

Only God can do this. ChristLife invites people into a relationship with God and His Church.

- Do you have family who no longer regularly receive the Eucharist: “the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus”?
- What will bring your family to regular Holy Communion?

ChristLife seeks to encourage an encounter with this personal God.

What is ChristLife?

ChristLife is a three-term programme, each term lasting seven weeks. The first term is called *Discover*, the second, *Follow*, and the third, *Share*. Participants commit to attending all three terms of the series.

Who is ChristLife for?

ChristLife is for all of us and has particular relevance to the unchurched and lapsed of our community and family. Come and see, participate and invite

To evangelize is to proclaim the Gospel, "Go out and make disciples of all the nations" (Mt 28:19).

This is Jesus' divine mandate to His Church, that is, to you and to me.



What is Evangelization?

The parish is the frontline, so to speak, of this divine mandate. The Church defines a parish as a "community of the Christian faithful stably constituted in a particular church, whose pastoral care is entrusted to a pastor under the authority of the diocesan bishop" (Can. 515 §1).

The Church goes on to say that the pastor is to "make every effort, with the collaboration of the Christian faithful, so that the message of the Gospel comes also to those who have ceased the practice of their religion or do not profess the true faith" (Can. 528 §1).

The New Evangelization calls us to fulfill this divine mandate with renewed ardor, methods and expressions.

How can you be involved in ChristLife?

The success of the programme depends on both **participants** and **volunteers**; volunteers make it possible for participants to attend, by performing important tasks behind the scenes (ie audio, catering, set-up).

Group Leaders also volunteer to meet once a week for prayer, preparation and training.

Lastly, we appeal to everyone to invite friends and family to participate, and pray for ChristLife volunteers and participants. Prayer is the foundation of our effort.

ChristLife fulfils these categories

In the *Discover* series:

- 1 What is the Meaning of Life?
- 2 Why Does Jesus Matter?
- 3 What Does Jesus Want Us to Know?
- 4 Why Do We Need a Savior?
- 5 Why Is the Resurrection Important?
- 6 Retreat:
 - Who Is the Holy Spirit?
 - The Holy Spirit and You
- 7 New Life in the Spirit
- 8 Our Need for the Church

Each evening includes a meal, prayer, a video presentation and small group discussion. The course runs for **7 weeks**, with a retreat towards the end of the term.

How much does ChristLife cost?

Participation is free. All costs will be covered by the parish. Assuming an attendance of around 70 participants, the Discover series will cost St B's around R30 000. This includes access to the material, printing of resources, catering for the meals, the retreat, and child care facilities.

*If you would like to make a once-off donation to help cover this expense: **Standard Bank • Branch code: 050417 • Account name: St Bernadette's Catholic Church • Account number: 080281141 • Reference: ChristLife***