



LANDINGS is for Catholics who have been away from the Church for a while and are thinking about checking it out again.

LANDINGS provides a safe harbor or landing place for you to explore your faith and to figure out if coming back to your parish community is something that you'd like to do.

- It is for those wondering: "What happened while I was away?, Is it still Communion if I don't get it from the priest?, What if I'm divorced?, How do I fit in?, What's there for me?"
- It is for those who have been back for a while who still have some issues.
- It is for those who left angry with the Church, or got sidetracked by other things in life and just drifted away.

You'll connect to:

- A supportive community within which you can ask questions, discuss issues, and deal with difficulties.
- An opportunity to be with ordinary Catholics who are trying to live their faith.
- A safe environment to come to terms with recent changes within the Church and yourself.

### **Contact Information:**

If you want more information about LANDINGS, contact Linda Bates, Nancy Bates, Father Steve, or Deacon Larry. Our next LANDINGS group will begin in February 2018.

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Today over one million people in over one hundred dioceses have taken part in a Landings group.

## Was the last time you were at church a long time ago in a galaxy far far away?



**"Resistance is futile"**

**If you're feeling overwhelmed by the dark side and thinking about becoming part of the Alliance again**

## Join us for LANDINGS!

Is Church something you have a bad feeling about? Afraid of coming back? Is there something about involvement in a parish alliance that you miss? Wondering if you should check it out again and maybe come back?

Has your spirit for parish life been crushed by the dark side? Because of something in the past? Or in the present?

Are you wondering about what happened to purgatory, limbo, fasting, and all those rules you were taught as a young Jedi? Do you find your lack of faith disturbing?

You're not alone. All of us are on a journey and most of us have been exactly where you are. Yet we gather together day after day, week after week, as a family to share our experience, our strengths and weaknesses, our faith, and our hope.

Why haven't we abandoned an "ancient religion" that doesn't seem to fit in the Empire?

Because it needs us to continue to grow in the spirit of Christ. At Saint Susanna we have open doors, open hearts, and open minds. The people of Saint Susanna have a voice and use it to question what doesn't make sense, to appeal for justice, and to welcome everyone.

We want to meet you and listen to your story- where you're from, where you've been, why you left and what happened while you've been away and we'll share ours and you just may find that we're not so different after all.

LANDINGS offers some new ways for you to look at things, find answers that work for you, and come home to your Church.

If you:

- would like to reconnect with your community of faith through a journey shared with others like you, but don't know where to begin, and
- have been baptized, confirmed, and received Communion.

Saint Susanna's parish wants to give you the understanding that you deserve and give you a chance to come home to your Church.

LANDINGS provides a rare opportunity for active Catholics and those who are considering coming back to the Church to share their faith experiences in a small group setting. This sharing of stories is a powerful spiritual experience that builds community and brings to life the meaning of faith. LANDINGS meetings are held weekly for 90 to 120 minutes for approximately 4 weeks.

There are some basic guidelines to ensure a comfortable environment for people who are new to LANDINGS.

First, the group is confidential. Second, compassionate listening is a key part of how the group runs. Compassionate listening is commenting only when a person has finished speaking and limiting remarks to how the person's story touched you. Group members do not judge or instruct. This ability to listen compassionately is key to honest sharing among group members.

LANDINGS meetings have a simple structure to help keep the group focused and avoid going over our minutes! A group meets for 4 weeks of confidential sharing of individual faith stories. Each week the group begins with a brief check-in where everyone gives a 1-minute update on how they're feeling that day.

After check-in, there is an opening prayer followed by the sharing of one person's faith story. After a refreshment break, the group members share their thoughts on a faith topic of their own choosing, followed by a closing prayer.

A priest may participate by talking about LANDINGS with those who might be interested in taking part, by presiding at the prayer service, and by serving as the theological back-up for the group. Other than that, the program is lay-coordinated and administered.