

Archdiocese of Seattle Religious Education Newsletter December 21, 2015

Dear Catechetical Colleagues,

As we begin the fourth week of Advent we look at the Essential Concept of the **Human Person**. Fr. James Martin brings our essential concept and the season of Advent together in his article titled, [Advent Is About Desire](#).

Please **continue to check out the new Year of Mercy link on the Archdiocesan homepage for more resources and events for the Jubilee Year** that will continue to grow over the next several months! We also will continue to feature some of these resources in our weekly newsletter as well.

Please also note, we have some new events to add to your calendar for 2016. These include a Faith Formation Presentation and Luncheon on March 15th, the PAFF Workshop and Retreat on April 28-29th, and our Annual PAFF Conference on June 1st. More information about these events will be shared in upcoming newsletters, but please mark your calendars now!

As we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, this will be our last newsletter of the year! Please look for the next newsletter arriving **Monday, January 11th!**

In Christ,
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Upcoming Catechetical Events

This Is the Night- Paschal Triduum Workshop

January 8, 2016: 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm **and** January 9, 2016: 9:00 am to 4:00pm
Mary Queen of Peace Church, Sammamish
View the [flyer](#) for more information and to register

Religious Education Standards Deanery Workshops

January 26, 2016: 10:30-12 | Pierce Deanery | Visitation Church, Tacoma

March 9th, 2016: I St. Charles, Burlington (*Time: TBD*)

Contact [Joseph Tancioco](#) for information, registration, and scheduling a future workshop.

Save the Date: Mass/March for Life

The annual Mass for Life and March for Life will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016. These events commemorate the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions in 1974 that legalized abortion throughout the country.

Save the Date: Jubilee for People with Special Needs

Saturday, March 12, 2016 | 11:00 Archbishop Peter J. Sartain, Presider

Save the Date: Faith Formation Presentation and Luncheon

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 | Chancery, Isaac Orr Conference Room | *More information to come*

Save the Date: Best Practices for Catechetical Leaders

April 28-29, 2016 | ABRC @ Palisades | *More information to come*

Save the Date: Annual PAFF Conference

June 1, 2016 | *More information to come*

Formation Opportunities

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 Formation Course

Presented by Joann Terranova, MAPS and Lynne Shioyama

January to November 2016 For more information, see [flyer](#) or contact Claudia Petursson at Holy Family Parish 452-822-0295, ext. 122 or claudiap@hfkparish.org

Holy Buckets - FREE Advent Resource

The Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) is a way to introduce Catholic youth to the Universality of our church. The MCA will help youth to understand that we belong to a world-wide church and that they are called to solidarity with youth around the world. The Holy Buckets program has undergone some changes and continues to animate young people in their missionary discipleship by learning, sharing and giving during the Season of Advent. The program launches the first week of Advent and closes on the Feast of the Epiphany (November 29, 2015 - January 6, 2016). download the FREE materials at

<http://www.onefamilyinmission.org/hca/hca-reproducibles.html> Please remit any funds collected by sending one check, payable to "Missions Office" with "Holy Buckets" in the memo line, to: Missions Office | 710 9th Ave | Seattle, WA | 98104.

Questions may be directed to your Missions Office:

missions.office@seattlearch.org (206) 382-4580

Missionary Childhood Association Christmas Artwork Contest

Twenty-four winners will be selected in the 2015-2016 [Missionary Childhood Association Christmas Artwork Contest](#); their artwork will appear as e-greetings on the website (MCAKids.org) and displayed at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. during Advent 2016 and through the Christmas Season. The official entry form is at MCAKids.org and at

OneFamilyInMission.org. Open to young Catholics in grades K-8 in schools or parish religious education programs. Deadline is Saturday, January 31, 2016.

Multimedia Youth Contest "Caring For God's Creation" (Grades 7-12)

Annual Multimedia Youth Contest Creative work of any medium (e.g. video, song, painting, drama, poetry, etc.) is welcome! Entries within the Archdiocese of Seattle must be sent to the Missions Office by March 17, 2016.

Essential Religious Education Concepts

The Human Person [26-48, 1691-1876, 1928-1948]

The Essential Concepts come from the Table of Contents for the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC). They have been re-organized to fit under the Six Tasks of Catechesis. CCC articles numbers associated with each Essential Concept are listed throughout this document. Referencing CCC article numbers is a recommended resource for catechist preparation.

TASK 3 - Moral Formation- *Students develop a moral conscience that is informed by Church teachings and conformed to Christ, as modeled in a personal life of virtue, and demonstrated in service of the Gospel's demands for society.*

Implementation Ideas for the Classroom:

Annotated Bibliography from the LMC*

**Please note the Library's Essential Concepts list is a working document, being updated on an ongoing basis.*

Online Resources

Sunday Connection from Loyola Press

Background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture reading.

More Than A Feeling: A Desire For God by Fr. James Martin

You're longing for God--you just don't know it, yet. *This article appeared in the July 2010 issue of U.S. Catholic (Vol. 75, No. 7, pages 37-38). It was adapted from a selection from The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*

C4: Ignite Your Catholic Faith - The Desire for God

People often wonder if God really matters. In this initial video for C4: Ignite Your Catholic Faith, Auxiliary Bishop Don Hying of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee shares his views on God's importance and relevance in our lives. Based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church (27).



God's Existence and The Argument from Desire

Bishop Robert Barron- If every innate or natural desire we have points to some objective state of affairs that fulfills it, then our innate desire for ultimate joy points to a supernatural source of fulfillment.



Catechism in Motion-The Desire for God

When you look at the world, it's like people were hard-wired for God. The desire for God is written in the human heart, and it's not hard to find expressions of this desire all over the place. Religion, our desire for God, the divine is part of the human condition.



Resources from the LMC on The Human Person

The Mystery of God: Who God Is and Why He Matters (Word On Fire) In this six- part film series and study program, Fr. Robert Barron reaches into our rich intellectual tradition to teach us how to turn the tide of secularism and draw people back to God. Using the insights of St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Pope Benedict XVI, he uncovers a clear yet sophisticated understanding of what we mean by "God". Who is God? And why does he matter? Watch this series and you'll not only learn the answers yourself, but you'll discover how to share them with others - especially those who no longer believe.

Restless Hearts: Writing the Spiritual Journey (LA Congress Workshop, 2015) "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you": St. Augustine described his own spiritual journey as a "restless heart," never satisfied, always seeking God. Reading the autobiographies of those who have pursued the Lord - for example, Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila, Dorothy Day and C.S. Lewis - sheds light on our own spiritual journey. We look for the moment of "crisis," literally, the turning point in their lives that made all the difference.

The Confessions of Saint Augustine (Audio CD) Saint Augustine's contributions to Christian theology are second to no other post-apostolic author in the whole sweep of church history. Yet alongside his doctrinal treatises, Augustine tells a story of his life devoted to Christ as his only satisfaction. The Confessions is at once the autobiographical account of Augustine's life of Christian faith and at the same time a compelling theology of Christian spirituality for everyone. Among the most important classics in Western literature, it continues to engage modern readers through Augustine's timeless illustrations and beautiful prose.

Finding True Happiness: Satisfying our Restless Hearts (Fr. Robert Spitzer) Finding True Happiness attempts to provide a way out of a personal and cultural vacuum by helping people to identify and then reach for happiness. After an exhaustive investigation of philosophical, psychological, and theological systems of happiness, Fr. Spitzer developed the Four Levels of Happiness, which he based on the classical thinkers Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Aquinas; the contemporary philosophers Marcel, Scheler, Buber, Ricoeur, and Jaspers; and the modern psychologists Maslow, Frankl, Erikson, Seligman, Kohlberg, and Gilligan. Finding True Happiness is both a philosophical itinerary and a practical guidebook for life's most important journey from the mundane and the meaningless to transcendent fulfillment.

The Soul's Upward Yearning: Clues to Our Transcendent Nature from Experience and Reason (Dr. Robert Spitzer) Father Spitzer's work provides a bright light in the midst of the darkness by presenting traditional and contemporary evidence for God and a transphysical soul from several major sources. It shows that we are transcendent beings with souls capable of surviving bodily death; that we are self-reflective beings aware of and able to strive toward perfect truth, love, goodness, and beauty; that we have the dignity of being created in the very image of God. If we underestimate these truths, we undervalue one another, underlive our lives, and underachieve our destiny.

Library Media Center Resources of the Week

The Season of Advent

Waiting and Preparation: Teaching Advent and Christmas

Use the rich symbols and stories of the season to help children experience Advent and lead them to a better celebration of Jesus' coming at Christmas. From Joe Paprocki's Catechist's Journey.

You Don't Know Jack... about Advent

Christmas is coming and Busted Halo longtime friend Fr. Jack Collins, CSP, hits the streets (and the local ice skating rink) to ask people what they know about that anticipatory season of waiting and preparation... Advent.



Arts and Faith: Fourth Sunday of Advent, Cycle C

Arts and Faith invites you to take a deeper look at the Advent Gospels through artwork. Henry Ossawa Tanner's realist depiction of the Visitation invites us around Elizabeth's table at her house, at the moment when Mary arrives and greets her.



I Will Be Tomorrow

A puzzle for Advent. Video by Fr. James Kubicki, SJ, on the **O Antiphons**. (Apostleship of Prayer)



People of the Nativity: Living the Christmas Story Then and Now (Marci Alborghetti)

The people of the original Advent become powerfully and often triumphantly real as they respond to God's plan. Meet Anna, Joseph, Mary and others in this true-to-the-Scripture narrative, which includes thoughtful questions, prayers and suggested actions that resonate with the reader's own experiences.

Light for the World (Tom Wall) Aquinas Ventures, LLC, 2015. This Advent, help your entire family prepare for the birth of Jesus with *Light for the World: A Catholic Kid's Guide for Advent and Christmas*. Written and illustrated for your entire family, this softcover book explains Catholic traditions and feast days that we celebrate throughout the

seasons of Advent and Christmas. Light for the World is just what your family needs to truly know and appreciate the "Reason for the Season".

The Advent Jesse Tree: Devotions for Children and Adults to Prepare for the Coming of the Christ Child at Christmas Offers 25 devotions for each day from December 1st to December 25th, Christmas Day... The day Christians celebrate that God's purpose was finally revealed in the coming of the savior, Jesus Christ. Each devotion traces the heritage of Jesus through the stories and prophecies of the Old Testament. This book enables individuals and families to engage in a more meaningful celebration of the Christmas season. These daily Advent devotions are written in two versions (one for children and one for adults) including a scripture, a story and commentary, questions to ask, a prayer, and a song.

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany in the Domestic Church: Activities to Celebrate the Liturgical Season (Catherine Fournier) This illustrated book is full of wonderful family activities to help parents and children alike better understand and celebrate the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. The perfect book to help families learn together and share the joys of this happy time of the liturgical year. Filled with a variety of family activities, saints' celebrations and crafts, this book has something for everyone in the family. Family activities include making an Advent wreath, a Jesse Tree with all its symbols, cloth Nativity figures, words for singing 21 Advent and Christmas songs, recipes for special cakes and breads and more. Also included are stories of special saints for the season with activities and prayers.

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has called the special **Jubilee Year for Mercy** to begin Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. It will close on Nov. 20, 2016, the day celebrated that year as the feast of Christ the King.

Brief History of Holy Years and Jubilees in the Church

by Fr. Thomas Rosica-Salt & Light blog.

Day of Mercy-Confessions at St. James Cathedral

Saturday, March 5, 2016 | St. James Cathedral | One of the high points of the Year of Mercy is the Day of Mercy, when Archbishop Sartain, Bishop Elizondo, and priests from across the Archdiocese hear confessions throughout the day at St. James Cathedral. All are encouraged to participate in this celebration of the Sacrament of Mercy in the Year of Mercy.

Archdiocesan Webpage for The Year of Mercy

It is up and **now available!** Please take a look at all of the resources and current information found dedicated to the Year of Mercy. Be sure to check back often for added events and resources.

Library Media Center Year of Mercy Resources

Here is a printable annotated **bibliography** of resources available from the Library Media Center. Materials may be added to the list, so check back for new titles.

Rediscover Mercy from Dynamic Catholic

"Forgive Offences Willingly" Knowing that forgiveness is a process and not just an event reveals why it is so difficult to forgive. We want it to be over and done with in a single moment, but in reality it takes a serious emotional and spiritual commitment. While difficult, there are few skills more important in life than forgiveness. There isn't a person on the planet that hasn't needed to give forgiveness. To help us forgive, Father Mike Schmidt delivers two incredibly simple but transformative truths about forgiveness. Watch this [short video](#) to learn more.

CRS Year of Mercy Resources

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has developed a number of resources that illustrate how Catholics in the United States can participate in acts of mercy through CRS. Click [here](#) for details.

Advent Moments of Mercy from Loyola Press

[Advent Moments of Mercy](#) Jim Campbell writes daily messages to help us explore the Scripture and feast days of Advent, especially paying attention to themes of mercy and incorporating the words of Pope Francis each day. Sign up to receive the daily messages via e-mail from the First Sunday of Advent through Christmas Day.

Archdiocese of Seattle Year of Mercy Prayer Card

Here is a [printable prayer card](#) for use in your parish. The prayer card can be printed out using Avery 8387 labels.

Year of Mercy App

Our Sunday Visitor's FREE [365 Days to Mercy app](#), is designed to accompany you on a spiritual journey during the Jubilee Year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis.

St. James Cathedral Tours

St. James Cathedral is inviting both parishes and school groups to set up visits for the Year of Mercy, which can be just a time of prayer and pilgrimage, or can include a guided tour as well. Corinna Laughlin claughlin@stjames-cathedral.org or 206-264-2086

Archdiocesan News

[NW Catholic Movie & Book Reviews](#)

Check NW Catholic for the latest reviews on [books](#) and [movies](#)

[Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades](#)

The Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades provides guest rooms and exceptional meeting facilities in a beautifully secluded but convenient setting for retreats, spiritual growth and professional formation. For more information or to view the upcoming retreats scheduled, visit the Retreat Center [website](#).



Prayers By Heart: The Catholic Children's Prayer Book

Daily prayers, memorized by heart, are a wonderful way for children to stay close to God. Prayers by Heart: The Catholic Children's Prayer Book, only from Saint Mary's Press, was created to support the Archdiocese of Seattle's Faith Formation Standards and designed to introduce young children to the beautiful prayers of our Catholic faith. Incorporating these prayers and family blessings in their daily life will help children learn to talk to and listen to God while being reminded of how He is always with them, and how much He loves and cares for them.

Order copies [here](#)

MyUSCCB

This Week in Ministry provides timely content every week formatted for use in a variety of ways: parish bulletins, websites, E-newsletters, social media and more.

Featured This Week (Fourth Week of Advent): [Meditation on Mercy](#) The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy began on December 8. Over the next 12 months, we will offer a variety of resources for the Jubilee, including a monthly meditation that can be used for personal, family or group reflection.

[Lectio Divina for the Fourth Week of Advent](#): For Advent and the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we offer Lectio Divina guides for each week of Advent for personal or group use.

To learn more about MyUSCCB and to sign up for this helpful resource, visit the [USCCB website](#) for more information.

Catechetical Weekly-NCCL

The National Conference of Catechetical Leaders publishes a weekly newsletter following the Six Tasks of Catechesis.

Featured This Week (Fourth Week of Advent):

[The Nativity of the Lord](#) "Think of Mary, Mother of God. How has she allowed you to become closer to her son, Jesus? How has she revealed God more fully to you? How does her "pondering" and "treasuring" help you reflect on the ways of God in your life?" Reflection questions taken from America Magazine's [The Mother of God](#).

For archived newsletters and to learn more about this organization visit the [website](#).

Featured Websites

Elements of the Catholic Mass Weekly Video Series

Elements of the Catholic Mass is designed to help the faithful better appreciate the beauty of the Mass. Featuring experts from the **Liturgical Institute**, the program consists of beautifully produced weekly short videos of 2-5 minutes. These free videos will be available online and on demand. Because they will be released with a discussion guide with references, they are ideal for personal faith formation or group discussion. To see a listing of all available episodes, visit the "Episodes" page of the Liturgical Institute's [website](#).



The **World Meeting of Families** website has a new section where **Select Congress Keynote Presentation and Breakout Session Videos** can be viewed for free. More videos are planned to be added so check back frequently for new content.

Los Angeles Religion Education Congress

February 25, 2016 (Youth Day) & February 26-28, 2016

Theme: "Boundless Mercy" | "Misericordia Inagotable"

Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, California

<http://www.recongress.org/>

Catholic Publishers

[Loyola Press](#)

[St. Mary's Press](#)

[Our Sunday Visitor](#)

[Ave Maria Press](#)

[Sadlier](#)

[Ascension Press](#)

[RCL Benziger](#)

[Lighthouse Catholic Media](#)

[Ignatius Press](#)

Helpful Links

[21st Century Catholic Evangelization](#)

Serving Catholic leaders in their ministry of evangelization with curated knowledge, approaches, strategies, and resources to reach out to those who have never heard the gospel proclaimed, to re-engage those who have lost a living faith in their daily lives, and to engage those who are faithful and need to be renewed with increased catechesis

[Garaventa Center](#)

The Garaventa Center from the University of Portland explores and deploys the fruits of faith, reason and imagination that constitute the Catholic intellectual tradition to illuminate and enliven something that is implicit but often unregarded: the working of grace in human communities. Weekly podcasts are available by visiting the website or subscribing to their weekly newsletter.

Catechist Journey

Sharing the Journey of Teaching the Catholic Faith. Joe Paprocki's blog that features practical tips and resources on sharing the gift of the Catholic faith.

eCatechist

eCatechist.com is a blog from Dan Pierson, that provides ideas, inspiration, and learning resources for catechists, parish catechetical leaders, and parents.

NACFLAM-National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministries

In response to God's word revealed through all generations and impelled by our belief in the intrinsic sacredness of family life we, the members of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers, join together to be a prophetic voice for family in Church and society, to foster professional development, and to provide mutual support for those who minister with families.

TeamRCIA

TeamRCIA.com is a free online resource for Catholic parishes and dioceses that want to form Christians for life. Offers a variety of online and in-person training for church ministers and volunteers, through webinars, e-mail courses, downloads, discussion forums, and training events led by experts in the field of initiation ministry.

Teaching Catholic Kids

Teaching Catholic Kids is a valuable tool for parents, teachers and catechists. Free downloadable activities and teacher resources are updated each month and made available from the best of Our Sunday Visitor books, workbooks and writers.

Vibrant Faith at Home

Vibrant Faith @ Home supports Christian leaders and families who are intentional about their faith and religious practice as they raise the next generation of committed Christians.

Word On Fire

Word on Fire Catholic Ministries is a nonprofit global media apostolate that supports the work of Father Robert Barron and reaches millions of people to draw them into- or back to- the Catholic faith. Word on Fire is evangelical; it proclaims Jesus Christ as the source of conversion and new life. Word on Fire is Catholic; it utilizes the tremendous resources of the Roman Catholic tradition-art, architecture, poetry, philosophy, theology, and the lives of the saints- in order to explain and interpret the event of Jesus Christ.

Stay Connected



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