



Email not displaying? [View it in your browser.](#)

In this Issue.....

March 17, 2019

Message from Gary

- Lent and CoVID/Coronavirus

Message from Jennifer

- Happy St. Patrick's Day

Office of Catechesis News

- Publicize your Summer Activities

Upcoming Events

- Catechetical Calendar
- Family Perspectives

Archdiocese News

- Submit Current 4th - 7th Student Information
- Safe Environment Update
- Children's Safe Environment Lessons
- Continuing Formation Fund Available
- Interested in Graduate Studies?
- 12 Hours of Reconciliation
- Synod Anniversary Event

From Our Friends

- Visitation Institute
- Become a NCCL Member
- NCCL Annual Meeting

Resources

- Catholic Summer VBS/Camp

Save the Date

- Celebration of Lay Ministry
- Catechetical Conference

Job Openings

Message from Gary

Lent and CoVID-19/Coronavirus

Think of all the things that children and parents, young people and elders, families and communities are “giving up.” Sometimes the sacrifices that are called for in daily life can be as significant as those Lenten sacrifices we chose before Ash Wednesday. Who would have thought that love and care for our family, our community and the whole human family would have led us to this many sacrifices – sacrificing daily routines, time with friends, sports and social gatherings, our Sunday worship, and on and on. These new disciplines and sacrifices – which we did not choose – we can still embrace as part of our Lenten renewal.

These sacrifices also have a special character of being shared. They put us in solidarity with people all over the world. In bearing the burden, may we grow in understanding others, grow in gratitude, grow in empathy, seeing we are in this together with every member of the human family.

While we have canceled programs and activities, Masses and devotions, we continue to care for the families, the young people, the parents, and parishioners we serve. Let us keep them in prayer, connect with them in appropriate ways, and offer resources for prayer and family sharing. Below are some of the many resources that may be helpful to you in your ministry or to the families in your parish.

Doug Ulaszek has prepared a wonderful [webpage of resources](#) especially for middle and high school youth. Check it out.

And for all [Official Archdiocesan Updates](#)

Resources for your young students and your families

Not only are you as a leader or catechist caught unprepared, but so are your families. If you want to provide resources, it is better to think in terms of something easy-to-use, self-contained, and that can fit into the messiness of family life, rather than trying to replicate the sort of lesson-process you would have offered at your parish. Perhaps a video, a family prayer, a worksheet, or a game would be appreciated by families who want to include some faith time in their un-routine life.

Resources to share with parents

- [“Helping Kids Cope with the coronavirus outbreak” by Dr. Joseph White on TeachingCatholicKids.com](#)
- [Faithfully Navigating Coronavirus with Your Kids – English and Spanish](#)
- [Homeschool Tips For Non-Homeschoolers During Coronavirus School Closings](#)

Prayers

- [Prayer to Mary, Health of the Sick by Pope Francis](#)
- [Prayer during an epidemic – printable – by OSV](#)
- [World Prayer for Healing – printable – by Pope Francis](#)

Resources for Children

- [The Lord's Supper – Quizzes for adults and for kids – with answer key – from Catechist magazine](#)
- Sadlier is providing, free of charge, eBooks of their regular print programs for the remainder of the school year! You can login, identify which resources you would like to share with families, then share the code. You will find books as well as related videos. This might be useful if you want to provide something for first communicants and their families, or just to provide parents a way to share faith with their children during this time. To access your FREE eBook Site License for Sadlier Religion programs, log in to Sadlier Connect at:

<https://Religion.SadlierConnect.com/@learnfromhomereigion>

Username: SadlierStudent

Password: ReadyToLearn!

Remember it's still Lent. . . Offer Lenten materials to your families

- [Lenten traditions around the globe](#)
- [Lent and Easter Trivia Quiz from Catechist magazine](#)
- [Answer key](#)
- [Meatless Meals from Around the World](#)
- [Holy Week Resources for Families – by Sadlier](#)
- [Teaching about and celebrating Lent with kids](#)
- [Journey Through Lent Board Game – from Catholic Toolbox](#)
- [Lent Resources around the Web. . . including some short videos](#)

Mass readings, devotions, and online Mass

- Magnificat offers free access to online Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, daily Mass readings and more, available on computer or mobile devices
 - English: <https://us.magnificat.net/free>
 - Spanish: <https://latina.magnificat.net/gratis>
- [Weekly Mass Resources For Kids \(When Attending Mass Isn't Possible\) – Lacy @ Catholic Icing](#)
- [Watch Sunday Mass online at Heart of the Nation](#) - Did you know this is a national broadcast, but recorded here at St Francis de Sales Seminary, with local priests, and choirs from local parishes?
- [Gospel at Home handouts and weekly videos – from Pflaum](#)

- [Living with Christ – Sunday Mass texts for free](#)

Finally, For you as a Catechetical Leader

[Sending Faith Home: A Guide for Catechetical Leaders amidst the Coronavirus Shutdown](#)

Message from Jennifer

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

St. Patrick's Prayer

May the Strength of God pilot us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Host of God guard us
Against the snares of the evil ones,
Against temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all!
May Thy Salvation, Lord,
Always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and evermore. Amen.



Office of Catechesis News


Publicize your Summer Activities for Catholic Kids

Will your parish be offering a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for young children? Will you have a summer program for teens? Expand your publicity by listing your programs on the [archdiocesan website](#). By listing your program on the archdiocesan website, you get free publicity which means new families may connect with your program and you are contributing to the combined effort of proudly publicizing the many summer opportunities offered by Catholic parishes.

[Click here](#) to find instructions on how to post events. Don't forget to tag the event by selecting 'vacation bible school' and/or 'summer youth program'

Upcoming Events

[Download](#) the Office of Catechesis Calendar to stay up to date on events.



2020 Catechetical Calendar

<u>March 2020</u>	<u>May 2020</u>
26 New Directors Institute 9:30 @ MMCPC	12 Finish Line 25 Memorial Day - Office Closed
<u>April 2020</u>	<u>August 2020</u>
1 Family Perspectives Take Two- Families and Scripture 10 Good Friday - Office Closed 12 Easter Day 18 Celebration of Catholic Scouting 4:00 @ MMCPC 28 Family Perspectives (NEW DATE) 9:00 @ MMCPC	28-29 Catechetical Conference

Updated March 5, 2020

Contact Us	
Gary Pokorny Director 414-758-0242 gpokorny@catholic.org	Jennifer Murphy Program & Event Coordinator 414-758-0240 jmurphy@catholic.org

Family Perspectives

April 28, 2020 **(NEW DATE)**

9:00am - 2:30pm

Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, Milwaukee

Family Perspectives is a comprehensive approach to support your efforts to integrate family ministry in your parish! After you attend the one day workshop to review the latest research and Church teaching on ministering to and engaging families in faith, there will be an individualized follow-up for your parish. Parishes that participate will receive 4 to 6 hours of on-site support to offer guidance and resources to make your family ministry come alive and be more meaningful in your community. To find out more and to register, [click here](#)

Archdiocese News

Submit Current 4th - 7th Grade Student Information by March 31

New and Improved Process

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee has a goal for 100% of grade schools and religious education programs to submit current 4th – 7th grade student data by March 31, 2020. Having this accurate information will benefit students, religious education children and families so they can become aware about opportunities regarding Catholic high school summer camps, open houses, shadow days and more.

The process for collecting names has changed to make it easier for you. We are no longer requesting you enter names in the Archmil Names Database. Student information can now be emailed to [Dale Klein](#), archdiocesan information systems specialist, as an export from your student information system or parish management system, or in an Excel or CSV format. However, we need the field columns that you submit to be **in this EXACT format, with one column for each piece of 4th-7th grade student data:**

1. Last name
2. First name
3. Address
4. City
5. State
6. Zip
7. Gender (ONLY use the label boy or girl)
8. Grade level
9. Parish name or school name
10. City of parish or school

Here are some guidelines for submitting student data. (If you have already entered your students into the Names Database *this year*, there is no need to send us the information again. We will pull your students from the Names Database.)

1. If your religious education program maintains student data in a Parish Management System such as ParishSoft, PDS, Realm, Gabriel, etc., please export the data, format it as requested above, and email the Excel or CSV file to [Dale Klein](#).
2. If you keep track of your students in an Excel spreadsheet or Google Doc, please make sure it is formatted as requested above and email the Excel or CSV file to [Dale Klein](#).

Safe Environment Update - From Suzanne Nickolai

Safe Environment Week 2020 Resource Guide

The [Safe Environment Week Resource Guide](#) for this year was sent out last week to all pastors, parish directors, directors of religious education, safe environment coordinators, youth ministers, and principals. Please review the guide and select the resources that will be best to use for your parish and school. Safe Environment Week is April 19th-25th this year. This year's theme for Safe Environment week is: *"Yet greater still is the light of Christ."* — Pope Francis

Circles of Grace Grade Level Curriculum for children's safe environment lessons

Archbishop Listecki and the Diocesan Review Board has approved the use of the Circle of Grace curriculum from the Archdiocese of Omaha. This grade level curriculum will be the only curriculum promulgated by the Archbishop for use in our archdiocese. A promulgation letter will be going out in April 2020, and This curriculum is being provided to you at no cost to your parish or school. A training is being scheduled for this summer for anyone interested in learning more about how to use the curriculum in your programs or classrooms. We will also have a webinar available with an implementation workshop that will be in the fall for any program directors or principals.

In regards to any other curriculums that you may be using to teach your grade level safe environment lessons, we will be reviewing what parishes and schools used this past year and reported on the safe environment curriculum verification reports that DRE's and principals turn into the catechesis office and schools office respectively. We will be having an advisory group assembled to review the various curriculums/lesson plans used to make sure that parishes and schools have alternative options for curriculums that are still meeting safe environment requirements and are considered best practice in child safety education.

More information will be coming regarding this curriculum and it's implementation.

[Read Suzanne's March 2020 Update](#)

Children's Safe Environment Lessons Scheduled during Closures

If you had children's safe environment lessons scheduled this month for your religious education programs and classes are cancelled, you may either **reschedule those lessons for a later date or provide the lessons to the parents** to teach at home with a requirement to have the parent confirm that they have taught the lesson at home with their child and the date they taught the lesson. Please keep all documentation regarding rescheduled lessons in case they are needed for review. The Safe Environment Office recommends that every effort be made to reschedule the lesson, if possible.

Continuing Formation Funds Available

Interested in attending a conference, workshop or going on retreat? Parish employees, who serve at least 20 hours a week, are eligible for up to \$500 annually in continuing formation funds! Funds may be used for registration, lodging and transportation. More information may be found here: <https://www.archmil.org/Lay-Ministry/Continuing-Formation-Grant.htm>. Applications are

due by Thursday, April 30th. Please note that the Fund Board meets quarterly to discern requests, and so will not meet again until late summer/early fall. Please contact Susan McNeil at mcneils@archmil.org or 414-758-2214 with any questions.

Interested in Graduate Studies?

Have you considered pursuing a master's degree in theology? Archbishop ListECKi established a fund to assist professional lay ministers in their pursuit of graduate-level education in theology, religious studies, or pastoral liturgy/liturgical music, The [Archbishop's Scholars Fund](#).

Applications for Fall 2020 are due by Thursday, April 30th. Please note that the Fund Board meets quarterly to discern requests, and so will not meet again until late summer/early fall. For more information, please contact Susan McNeil at mcneils@archmil.org or 414-758-2214.

Pray, Reconcile & Rejoice: 12 Hours of Reconciliation

12 Parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee will be hosting *Pray, Reconcile, and Rejoice: 12 Hours of Reconciliation* on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. All are invited to take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation by visiting one of the hosting parishes.

[Learn More](#)

Synod Anniversary Event

Saturday, May 30, 2020 – 10 am-5:30 pm

Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center

The Synod Anniversary Event will feature a morning keynote by Bishop Donald Hying, an afternoon presentation by Archbishop ListECKi, and prayer opportunities, including Pentecost Mass at 4 p.m.

This gathering will mark five years since Archbishop ListECKi appointed the Archdiocesan Synod Implementation Commission (ASIC) and began the Synod implementation process. Leaders from across the archdiocese will look back at what the Synod has accomplished in our archdiocese, as well as look forward to the work necessary to continue implementing the Synod priorities in an effective way for our parishes and our people.

[Registration is now open](#)

From our Friends

St. Mary's Visitation Spring 2020 Visitation Institute

This spring, the Visitation Institute will feature an exciting celebration of the 100th birthday of St. John Paul II (May 18, 1920) along with a commemoration of the 15th anniversary of his passing into eternity (April 3, 2005). Please consider attending this speaker series of dynamic local, national, and international talent as we come to a better appreciation of the gift that St. John Paul II was and is to the Church. The sessions are from 6:30- 8:15pm in the Atrium at St. Mary's Visitation in Elm Grove. Cost is \$5 each, keynotes \$10, or a special deal of \$20 for all five preliminary talks, \$30 for all seven. [See Flyer for session details.](#)

Become a NCCL Member through the Archdiocese

The National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) promotes catechesis and evangelization in the Church and enhances the ministerial effectiveness of its members. For more information on NCCL Membership visit the [NCCL website](#).

Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs) can become NCCL members as part of our Archdiocesan Membership.

- If you serve in a parish in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, in a catechetical leadership role, you may now enroll as a member and receive all benefits, at no cost.
- PCLs include directors or coordinators of religious education, faith formation, youth ministry, child ministry, evangelization, adult formation, and so on.

To join NCCL:

1. Register through the Archdiocese by using the link below. Provide contact information and submit.
2. Once your PCL status is verified, you will receive instructions for activating your membership via the NCCL website.

[Register for NCCL Membership](#)

National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL) Convocation

Plan to attend THE professional development conference for catechetical leaders - just across the river!

MAY 17-21, 2020
GRAND RIVER CENTER
Dubuque, Iowa



For details, visit <https://nccl.org/convocation/>

Registration is now open: <https://nccl.org/product/nccl-2020-annual-convocation/>

Just a 2 ½ to 3 ½ hour drive from anywhere in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Handling the Cost

1. NCCL offers a discounted rate for participants from the area, including participants from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Check it out.
2. Scholarships are available. Look into them here: <https://nccl.org/?s=scholarship>
3. Our own office for Lay Ministry offers grants for continuing formation, including the NCCL Convocation.

Funds are available to help you attend NCCL

The Office for Lay Ministry offers financial support for continuing formation. Parish employees, who serve at least 20 hours a week, are eligible for up to \$500 annually in continuing formation funds! Funds may be used for registration, lodging and transportation. More information may be found here: <https://www.archmil.org/Lay-Ministry/Continuing-Formation-Grant.htm>.

Consider attending the NCCL conference!

The Fund Board is meeting toward the end of February, so get your applications in soon!

Resources

Catholic Summer VBS/Camp

During the cool months of the year, parishes are planning activities for the warmest months – summer Vacation Bible School or Catholic Camps. It is good to see that there are several publishers who offer Catholic programs or Catholic supplements to their VBS programs.

Click on the image to see a listing of Catholic programs.

CATHOLIC SUMMER VBS

During the cool months of the year, parishes are planning for the summer months – Vacation Bible School or Catholic Kids Camp. Several publishers offer Catholic programs or supplements. Here are a few:

Growing with the Saints offers 6 Catholic Kids Camp programs:
The Vatican Express, Parachute with the Angels, Set Sail with the Trinity, Parade Around the Our Father, Around the World in 5 Days and Tracking Mary. Visit www.growingwiththesaints.com

The Pastoral Center offers 5 Growing Up Catholic VBS programs:
Digging for Treasure: Parables Revealed (new), Surprise! Stories of Discovering Jesus, Message Received: Hearing God's Call, Earthkeepers: Adventures for Creation Care Kids (Inspired by Laudato Si), and the new Peace Lab: Discover God's Way of Peace
 Visit: www.growingupcatholicvbs.com

God is Good VBS offers 3 programs, including:
St. Luke the Evangelist, Jesse Tree Journey, and Discovery Mission (in collaboration with Vianney Vocations below).
 Visit: www.godisgoodvbs.com

Liguori Publications presents **Splash Canyon** in cooperation with Concordia Publishing.
 Visit: www.liguoripub.org
 [Former kits – Mighty Fortress & Barnyard Roundup – may still be purchased from Liguori.]

Our Sunday Visitor offers **Rocky Railway VBS** – "Jesus' power pulls us through."
 Produced in cooperation with Group. Visit vbs.osv.com

Vianney Vocations offers **Discovery Mission** Vacation Bible School (yes, VOCATION Bible School) Visit: www.vocationbibleschool.com

Cat.Chat offers several programs including:
Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer, Marvelous Mystery: the Mass comes Alive, Cool Kingdom Party, Birthday Blast – Celebration of Life, Wilderness Adventure through the Sacraments, and "Cathletics" Visit www.catchat.ca/vacation-bible-school

This listing is not an endorsement of particular programs but is provided as a convenience to help you evaluate various options.
 February 2020

Save the Date

Celebration of Lay Ministry - Tuesday, June 2, 2019

Mark your calendars for the annual Celebration of Lay Ministry, which will be held at Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKi will celebrate Mass at 11 AM, followed by lunch and a short program. Registration information will be sent out at the beginning of April.

Catechetical Conference

August 28-29, 2020

Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, Milwaukee.

Save the Date for the 2020 Catechetical Conference. The theme for the conference will be: **Encounter Christ**. This conference will offer presentations for catechists, catechetical leaders, and others who pass on the faith. Please mark your calendar for yourself, your catechists and friends.

Job Openings

Associate Director of Student Ministries - St. Charles, Hartland

Youth Activities Coordinator - St. James / St. Elizabeth, Mukwonago

Director of Child and Family Ministry - St. Francis Borgia, Cederburg

Contact Us

Gary Pokorny

Director

414-758-2242

pokornyg@archmil.org

Jennifer Murphy

Program and Event Coordinator

414-758-2240

murphyjc@archmil.org



This ministry is supported by the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

Do you have an article, event or district meeting you would like included in the newsletter???

Please send information to: murphyjc@archmil.org

This email was sent by: Office of Catechesis

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

St. Francis 53235

[Visit our website](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)