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Office of Catechesis News

The Catholic Comeback

We remain in Phase 2 of the Catholic Comeback. The current version of the Catholic Comeback Matrix is the one that was published back in August (but carries the 9/14/2020 date). [View the updated matrix.](#)

Sunday Mass

Archbishop Listecki has determined that the celebration of the Eucharist will continue. Although the number of positive Covid tests and of hospitalizations have risen, the Archbishop explains that “we know more about the virus and its transmission than we did last March and are better prepared for implementing the protocols for distancing, sanitizing and safety.” He also reminds us that “are always called to use their well-formed conscience in making the decision whether they should attend Mass.”

Catechetical Programs

Parishes continue to offer faith formation during this time, but as you know, there are different adjustments and accommodations around the archdiocese. Some programs are in-person with distancing and precautions, some are virtual, some provide materials for at-home formation, and some offer a hybrid using more than one strategy. This diversity is appropriate. With all the differences among parishes – enrollment numbers, size and design of facilities, staffing, students’ school situations, family diversity, online capabilities, and local health conditions – it would not be reasonable to institute a uniform approach in all parishes.

We are grateful and proud of all your efforts to keep connected with your families and to continue faith formation under very challenging circumstances.

Advent and Christmas

Although the general Matrix remains the same, the Archdiocese offers a supplemental [Matrix for Advent and Christmas and Guidelines](#) for particular concerns of the season, including more people coming to church, communal reconciliation, wreath sales, passing out take-home materials, and so on. Check it out.

First Reconciliation

Some parishes have begun celebrating First Reconciliation; some have it scheduled for December or in the new year. Again, there are many factors to consider – the configuration of your church, available priests, number of families and children. A group celebration is permitted, with the necessary precautions. Remember, do not use an enclosed confessional or reconciliation room. Instead, set up stations in the church. Also, consult the [Advent Reconciliation Services](#).

Office of Catechesis News



“We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope...”

(I Thess 1:2-3)

Happy Thanksgiving from Gary & Jennifer!

Catechetical Surveys - past and present

This fall, parish leaders have been asking us “what are other parishes doing now?” So, this month we are conducting a “Fall Snapshot Survey.” This survey will help us learn how parishes have adapted faith formation this fall in light of the ongoing pandemic.

If you have already completed the survey - Thank you! If you haven't completed the survey yet, please take 10 minutes to complete the survey by **Friday, November 20**.

We will share the results with you in December.

Take the Survey

Back in spring, when the Covid-19 pandemic began, the majority of parishes around the Archdiocese found ways to connect with families and to provide resources during the Safer-at-Home order. In our *Survey of Parish Catechetical Programs*, we asked how you handled faith formation during that time. Here were the results:

- 60% We gave families access to online resources (videos, activities, prayers, etc)
- 33% We sent packets or textbooks home for parents to do with their children.
- 32% We switched to virtual/online classes and meetings.
- 24% We ended our faith formation programs.
- 8% Our program was already finished.

The complete report of the 2019-2020 Survey is posted online. In that survey, we gather information on personnel, models of catechesis, enrollment, textbooks, special needs, sacramental preparation, and catechists. We make it available for your own faith formation planning, and we use the information to guide our archdiocesan planning, policy updates and resource development.

[View Survey of Parish Catechetical Programs Results](#)

Co-Workers In Transition

Continuing our updates on new directors of religious education or faith formation, we welcome:

- John Brotherhood, High School & Middle School Coordinator, Lumen Christi, Mequon
- Kari Leaf, Director of Religious Education & Family Ministry, Kenosha-Racine County Line Catholic Parishes

For all those beginning a new role this year, let us pray, and let us pledge our support and companionship along the way.

If you know of someone new to a position that we have not listed, please let us know.

Upcoming Events

Gigs, Geeks & God

January 14, 2021



Gigs, Geeks and God, an Archdiocesan technology conference, aims to help parishes understand and integrate technology in their formation programs, communications, and parish administration.

Due to the Coronavirus, this year's conference will be virtual. The conference will feature pre-recorded workshops, a live keynote address, a live general session about a current technology trend relating to ministry, live workshop sessions as well as hands on labs. Join us for a series of presentations and workshops designed to help youth ministers, catechetical leaders and other staff engage technology more effectively in their ministries and to address ethical and formational issues related to technology in our lives.

The conference offers topics for anyone in parish ministry such as parish business managers, finance councils, faith formation leaders. [Register Now](#)

New Directors Institute

The New Directors Institute is designed to provide information, support and resources to help you as your ministry unfolds. All directors of religious education, youth ministry and faith formation, who are new or nearly new to ministry, or new to archdiocese, are encouraged to join us.

For this year, we will meet virtually, using Zoom, at least through Fall 2020. [See Schedule.](#)

Sessions are scheduled every two weeks on alternating Tuesday and Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon.

You can registration online at: <https://archmil.regfox.com/ndi2021>

There is no cost to participate. We will provide the Zoom link and other information after you register.

Archdiocese News

See You at Mass

To assist parishes with encouraging people to return to Mass in person, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee has created a series of video clips of personal testimonies on the joys and necessities of attending Mass in person. All of the videos are short and invitational and are meant to be shared on social media, parish websites, or in e-newsletters.

[See You at Mass Videos](#)

Love Begins Here

In Summer 2021, the Archdiocese will be launching a new youth service opportunity called Love Begins Here. If you are thinking of bringing teens on a trip in 2021, please fill out our parish registration form by **Friday, November 20** so we can plan space for you.

Find the form

at <https://archmil.regfox.com/love-begins-here-2021-parish-registration>



**LOVE
BEGINS
HERE**
LOCAL, LIFE CHANGING MISSION TRIPS

From our Friends

USCCB Lay Ministry Survey

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) would like to learn more about the realities facing lay ecclesial ministers across the country. To achieve that, the USCCB has created a survey

that any and all lay leaders are invited to fill out.

Take the survey in [English](#) or [Español](#).

The purpose of this survey is to get a snapshot of the current landscape of lay leadership in the Church in the United States today; to hear how the pandemic has affected them; to understand the impact of the bishops' document on lay ecclesial ministry, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord*; and to ask how the USCCB can support and advocate for lay pastoral leaders across the U.S., most especially at this uncertain time.

Please take time to do the survey, the information will be very helpful to the US bishops. The deadline for filling out the survey is **December 15, 2020**.

Advent Reflection with Joe Meyer

Join Mareda on **December 14th at 10:00 am** as Joe Meyer, Director of the Laudato Si' Project, leads an Advent Reflection. He will help attendees prepare for the birth of Christ using the God given gift of our natural environment. This will be a zoom presentation. [Register Now](#)



Mareda

The Association of Catholic
Catechetical Leaders in the
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Save the date! - February 24 at 9:30 am

Bishop Schuerman will meet with Mareda
The meeting is tentatively planned for St. Anthony on the Lake in Pewaukee.

Resources

Formation Resources

Discover free-of-charge resources to supplement or enhance your lessons. Videos, lesson plans and other resources have been vetted by our review team, and are listed by general topic and by age group. Visit: <https://www.archmil.org/Catechesis/Technology/Formation-Resources.htm>

Do you have a favorite resource to share? Send us your suggestions under "Submit a Resource."

Catechetical Resources During the Pandemic

We will continue to update our [Catechetical Resources During the Coronavirus Pandemic page](#) with additional resources as they are developed.

Fall 2020 Resource Page

The Office of Youth Evangelization has put together a [Planning for Fall 2020 page](#) with resources, ideas, and encouragement as we all forge ahead this year. We try to add updates as they become available.

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

Please send information to: murphyjc@archmil.org

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