

HORIZON

'From the rising of the sun to its setting let the name of the Lord be praised' Psalm 113:3

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Why Catholic?

The Sacramental Life of the Church

Our priests are the true shepherds to their flocks. Without them, there is no sacramental life of the Church. They offer and dispense these sacraments to the faithful so that we who are the community of believers may continue to share in the very life of God. Many of the Small Community Faith Sharing groups around the Diocese are sharing how the Sacraments are a tremendous gift from God. One of the most fruitful ways we can share in the richness of the Sacraments is to take one of the Prayers from the **Sacramentary** to focus on the message from each of the Sacraments e.g.

- **Confirmation: Bishop's Blessing of the Chrism:** "And so, Father, we ask you to bless this oil you have created. Fill it with the power of your Holy Spirit through Christ your Son. It is from him that chrism takes its name and with chrism you have anointed for yourself priests and kings, prophets and martyrs."
- **Penance: Eucharistic Prayer for Masses of Reconciliation:** "God of power and might, we praise you through your Son, Jesus Christ, who comes in your name. He is the Word that brings salvation. He is the hand you stretch out to sinners. He is the way that leads to your peace." The Final Prayer of Absolution from the Sacrament of Penance is also very meaningful.
- **Eucharist: Any Prayer after Communion e.g.** "Lord our God, may the sacraments we receive show us your forgiveness and love. May we who honor the mother of your Son be saved by his coming among us as man, for he is Lord for ever and ever." (Advent Season, Common of the Blessed Virgin).
- **Holy Orders: From the Rite of Ordination of Priests (After priest receives paten and chalice):** "Receive the oblation of the holy people, to be offered to God. Understand what you do, imitate what you celebrate, and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord's cross."
- **Matrimony: Eucharistic Prayer, Marriage I:** "By this sacrament your grace unites man and woman in an unbreakable bond of love and peace."
- **Anointing of the Sick: Opening Prayer: Anointing of the Sick During Mass:** "Father, you raised your Son's cross as the sign of victory and life. May all who share in his suffering find in these sacraments a source of fresh courage and healing".

Number of Participants for Fall Session

If you know the **number of participants** in your fall session, would you please send them to me? I do an attendance comparison from Fall to Fall sessions to see how the Diocese is doing.

Year III Book Order

A reminder that the order for the **Year III books** must be in to me by **Friday, October 31**. You can reply by e-mail using the form or just send me the number and I will complete the order form.

Sisters of St. Joseph Grant

Following the Book order, I will begin to process grant monies for those parishes who have applied. It is not too late to apply for a Grant if your parish needs assistance to continue **Why Catholic?** in your parish. This is the only Grant available to this Office. **Please** if you have such a need, please make your request known on your parish stationery. This Office will make every effort to meet your needs in some way. It is very important that we continue this form of Adult Education in our parishes.

Advent Retreat: Eucharist: Bread for the Journey: The entire parish is invited to come and participate in the closing of the Year II focus on the Sacraments. One of the aspects of the Retreat will be: *"I Am What I Eat"*. The Eucharist has no meaning unless it is lived in love. How can I demonstrate more effectively what it means to give myself to others? What does it mean when I hear that the Eucharist builds unity? Do I see my brothers and sisters in the celebration of the Eucharist? Parish registrations are due on **Monday, November 24**.

Advent Retreat (December 6-12, 2008)

Jefferson	IHC Intermediate School, Watertown	Dec. 6	10:00-12:00 pm
Lewis	St. Peter's Church Hall, Lowville	Dec. 7	1:00-3:00 pm
Clinton	St. Peter's Emmaus Hall, Plattsburgh	Dec. 8	1:00-3:00 pm; 7:00-9:00 pm
Adirondack	St. Agnes School, Lake Placid	Dec. 9	7:00-9:00 pm
Essex	St. Mary's School, Ticonderoga	Dec. 10	7:00-9:00 pm
St. Lawrence	Trinity Catholic School, Massena	Dec. 11	7:00-9:00 pm
Franklin	Holy Family School, Malone	Dec. 12	7:00-9:00 pm

Year of St. Paul

Bishop Robert J. Cunningham has designated several places of worship to celebrate the **Year of St. Paul** and receive a plenary indulgence. There are two feasts during the month of November in which the faithful may receive these indulgences: *All Saints Day, November 1* and the *Dedication of the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, November 18*. Masses will be offered in these sites. Or pilgrims are encouraged to visit one of these sites at anytime during the day. The conditions for receiving the plenary indulgence must be fulfilled. The pilgrimage sites are: *St. Mary's Cathedral, Ogdensburg; St. Paul's Church, Blue Mountain Lake; St. Paul's Church, Black River; St. Paul's Church, South Colton, St. Paul's Church, Bloomingdale; All Saints Church, Mineville.*

2008 World Synod of Bishops

The *XII Ordinary Synod of Bishops* came to a close yesterday with the celebration of Mass in the Basilica of St. Peter. The 253 members of the Synod said that each Catholic should have a copy of the Bible, read it and pray with it regularly, especially in preparation for the celebration of the Sunday Liturgy. Pope Benedict XVI said "that every text should be read keeping in mind the unity of all Scripture, the living tradition of the Church and the light of faith." The Holy Father also stated that like Jesus who proclaimed salvation and hope, we, as Christians continue the mission of proclaiming the Gospel message of hope with the poor and the suffering so that all may experience peace, justice and love. The Small Community faith sharing groups, R.C.I.A., and other parish ministries groups might begin with a short reading from Scripture to share the meaning of the Word. It is in sharing and experiencing the Word of God that the Church continues to grow into holiness and love.

Resources

~**Advent Activities for Families Cycle B** found on www.dioogdensburg.org/Evangelization.

~**The Birth of Jesus According to the Gospels**, Joseph F. Kelly turns to the infancy narratives to see what the New Testament tells about the Nativity. Many of the cards, Christmas celebrations, pageants, and crèches are often combinations and embellishments of the Gospel narratives (\$14.95 www.litpress.org).

~**Waiting in Joyful Hope, Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas 2008-2009**, Bishop Robert F. Morneau has short inspirational meditations and reflections (\$2.00 each or 50 or more copies \$1.00 net each www.litpress.org).

~**An Advent and Christmas Journey**, Rev. Michael Himes, refers to biblical passages used during the Advent season without relying on any particular liturgical cycle, to reflect on the spiritual themes and personalities of the season of Advent and Christmas. Five programs focus on: *Hope in the Darkness, The Second Coming, Threatened by Grace, Prophets: John, Mary and Joseph*, and *The Eternal Giving of God* (two 65-minute DVDs \$39.95 <http://catalog.AmericanCatholic.org>). This would be excellent for Adult Faith Formation.

~**Preparing for Christmas**, Rev. Richard Rohr, stresses that Advent is more than "waiting for the baby Jesus".

Fr. Rohr says that Advent it is about an adult and social appreciation of the message of the Incarnation of God in Christ. The Word of God that comes to us in the Advent season confronts us, converts us, and consoles us, in that order, making our entire life, and the life of the church, one huge 'advent' (\$1.95 <http://catalog.AmericanCatholic.org>).