

# NEW EVANGELIZATION NEWSLETTER

## Advent

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter more deeply into Advent, may the peace of Christ be upon you, your ministry and your family.

The apostolate "Evango" have put together a series of beautiful, professionally filmed inspirational videos for the Season of Advent. "Come to Christ" is a new way of bringing your loved ones back to the miracle of Christmas. Through engaging, relevant, and beautiful videos, Catholic Lay Evangelist, Patrick Sullivan calls on every Christian to see the season with a new sense of hope. You can watch "Come to Christ" by [clicking here](#)

These past few years I have noticed that children in our parishes are becoming less familiar with the season of Advent as parents abandon Advent in favor of one extended Christmas season and incorporate more secular traditions into the Christmas countdown. If you are trying to help parents incorporate more sacred and holy traditions into Advent, rather than the Elf of the Shelf you can [read more here](#).

Haven't signed up for our next New Evangelization Meeting? Now is the time! All are welcome to attend the next New Evangelization Network which will take place on January 19th at St. Bernard Parish in Appleton. We will be looking at the core Gospel framework called the kerygma and how to apply this to our ministries. All are welcome to attend but an RSVP is required as lunch is provided. Please RSVP to Maria Garcia at [mgarcia@gbdioc.org](mailto:mgarcia@gbdioc.org).



Blessings,

*Julianne Stanz*

Director of New Evangelization

920-272-8270

[jstanz@gbdioc.org](mailto:jstanz@gbdioc.org)



# ADULT FAITH FORMATION

## **Christ is Coming Decade**

*A Family Advent Prayer and Reflection*

Bishop Fulton Sheen said that if God were to come to this world the least he can do is to tell us beforehand. This is just common courtesy, is it not? When the U.S. Government sends an ambassador to a foreign country, the government of that country is duly notified beforehand. And when family and friends come to visit us, they usually give us a heads-up so that we can clear our schedule and clean the house before their arrival.

In much the same way, this is what our Heavenly Father did. In fact, hundreds of years before the first coming of the Messiah, God submitted his Son's resume to Israel; a profile of of the Messiah, if you will. This resume came in the form of Old Testament prophecies. As such, not only Israel, but the world was expecting the Messiah with a certain characteristics. In his book, *The Life of Christ*, Sheen reminded his readers that Jesus Christ was the only religious leader whose coming was foretold in advance.

As a father of six children, I thought that the Old Testament prophecies about the first coming of the Messiah would be a good Advent prayer and reflection for my family called [\*Christ is Coming Decade: A Family Advent Prayer and Reflection\*](#). So, instead of having my family read ten consecutive prophecies, I thought I could turn this series of biblical passages into a prayer; that is, a "decade" much like the ones we pray in the rosary. With this, I added a hymn and intercessions from the Divine Office with an Our Father in the beginning and a Hail Mary in between each of the Old Testament passages.

From this Advent prayer and reflection, I wanted my children to know that Jesus Christ was the long-awaited Messiah. Indeed, Israel had longed for his coming for centuries. And when that time for his arrival came, many Jews had welcomed him with open arms. But as for Jerusalem, as our Lord mentioned in the Gospels, it was not altogether ready to receive him because "they did not recognize the time of his visitation." (Luke 19:44)

As a husband and father, it is my vocation to do my very best to prepare my family for our Lord's coming; whether it be in the form of daily inspirations, at the hour of their death or the great Second Coming itself. Regardless, I want them to be watchful and ready to welcome their Lord and Savior when he chooses *to come to them!* Through their watchfulness and readiness which the season of Advent so often inspires, it is my hope that God will be glorified in their hearts.

**Men For All Seasons**  
**Green Bay Men's Conference**  
Saturday, March 4, 2017  
KI Center- GB

The next Esto Vir Men's Conference is drawing near. Wives, this would make for a nice Christmas gift for your husbands. It is not at all uncommon that men who go to these uplifting Esto Vir Men's Conferences come home and volunteer to do the dishes, vacuum the rug and tidy up the house so you can get that well-deserved break! That's right. Their experience at the KI Center on March 4th is likely to be that transformative!

How does Esto Vir do it? They inspire in men a love for Jesus Christ. And then, in return, Our Lord inspires in the hearts of men the desire- to only to love God and family -but the desire to *serve* God and family in ways that might have been unfamiliar to them in the past.

You can register your husband today and tell him on December 25th that he is going to be treated to a day-away from the family on March 4, 2017.

Get started by clicking on this [link](#).

## **2017 Adult Confirmation Program**

### **A Preliminary Note:**

The Diocese of Green Bay will be sponsoring the 2017 Adult Confirmation classes this spring at different locations throughout the diocese. Classes will begin on the week of April 24, and will conclude the week of June 4, 2017.

The Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on Pentecost at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay, which is Sunday, June 4, 2017. The 2017 Adult Confirmation Program will consist of seven sessions spanning seven weeks. Each of these classes will be two hours long.

Currently, we have several locations throughout the GB Diocese that are scheduled to offer Adult Confirmation classes. These locations are:

- Bona Hall, GBD Campus- Green Bay
- St. Philip the Apostle Parish- Green Bay
- St. Joseph Parish- Sturgeon Bay
- Holy Trinity Parish- Oconto
- St. Peter the Fisherman Parish- Two Rivers
- St. Therese Parish- Appleton

I will be providing the final list of Adult Confirmation Program locations in the January Department of NE Newsletter. In the interim, if you have any questions or if your parish is interested in offering a Adult Confirmation class, please feel free to contact me at: (920) 272-8313 or [jtremblay@gbdioc.org](mailto:jtremblay@gbdioc.org). We can explore our options. Thank you!

Please note that a website link to the 2017 Adult Confirmation Program will be provided in the next newsletter!

The Strong Catholic Families National Partnership invites ministry leaders, teachers, parents and clergy to join together with others around the globe in a four-part webinar series focusing on the pastoral implementation of Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation on the family, *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love). Four teachers will be speaking to different aspects of a family's faith journey over the next several months. Each month, two live panels will convene to reflect on the master teacher presentation and to discuss the pastoral issues, concerns and effective practices related to that month's theme:

- Theme 3 (November 6- December 7): Assisting Families in Discerning God's Movement presented by Julianne Stanz, Director of New Evangelization, Diocese of Green Bay
- Theme 4 (January 8 - January 25): Engaging for Mission presented by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archdiocese of Washington

Register for each panel at: [www.strongcatholicfamilies.org/amoriswebinar/](http://www.strongcatholicfamilies.org/amoriswebinar/)

This Strong Catholic Families Webinar Series is presented in partnership by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership (NCCL), the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) and the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).



# Impact

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

## A sneak peek at what December Impact Brings:

### Wait for it

**What are you waiting for?** During advent, we wait "in blessed hope" for Christ's second coming, and for the arrival of Christmas in which we celebrate Christ's "advent" - Jesus' coming as a child in Bethlehem. The season of Advent intensifies our anticipation of Christmas and our appreciation for the mystery of God's love for us.

## Un poco de lo que incluye Impacto en Diciembre:

### Espera

**¿Por qué estás esperando?** Durante el Adviento, esperamos "con bendita esperanza" por la segunda venida de Cristo y por la llegada de la Navidad en la que celebramos el "advenimiento" de Cristo - la venida de Jesús como un niño en Belén.

La temporada de Adviento intensifica nuestra anticipación de la Navidad y nuestro aprecio por el misterio del amor de Dios por nosotros.

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### What is Impact?

Impact, is a dynamic, monthly resource to form people as disciples and good stewards who share their gifts and faith, making an impact in their lives and the life of the world.

Each month, Impact includes a one-page full color or grayscale PDF resource, which may be used as a bulletin insert, copied and distributed at parish gatherings, and/or used as part of an on-going adult faith formation initiative.

### **How can I get Impact?**

The Diocese of Green Bay offers Impact to you at no cost. Impact will be distributed in the following ways:

- Parish Pages
- Department newsletters

### **Follow these links to download materials each month!**

- **Impact - English:** <http://www.catholiclifeandfaith.net/subscription-resources-english/>

PASSWORD: **Subscribe4Impact**

- **Impacto - Spanish:** <http://www.catholiclifeandfaith.net/subscription-resources-spanish/>

PASSWORD: **Impactossubscriber**

- **General Information:** <http://www.catholiclifeandfaith.net/impact/>

## **CLICK HERE FOR THIS MONTH'S COPY OF IMPACT**

**[December Impact](#)**

**[Impacto para el mes de Diciembre](#)**

**[Christmas - January 2017 Impact](#)**

**[Impacto para Navidad - Enero 2017](#)**

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Conversations

on Evangelization

and Discipleship

# “Come and See” Jn 1:39

All are invited to a series of discussion regarding the ways to awaken and reawaken the faith of those who are not practicing their faith, those who are distant from the Catholic Church, and those who are practicing their faith but wish to go deeper. Join with other **disciples on the way** from around the Diocese to support one another.

May 12

**The Jesus Story** 9:30-12:30pm  
(St. Paul, Combined Locks) How do we speak about Jesus and Rediscovering Jesus? Facilitator: Fr. Dennis Ryan

Jul 21

**Story of Faith** 9:30-12:30pm  
(St. Pius X, Appleton) How do we share faith stories and listen to the faith stories of others? Facilitator: Kristin Bird

Sep 15

**Missionary Outreach** 9:30-12:30pm  
(Sacred Heart, Appleton) What is our beginning point? Where are our touch points? Facilitator: Fr. Peter Mitchell

Nov 17

**Coffee & Conversation** 9:30-12:30pm  
(St. Bernard, Appleton)

Jan 19

**Encounter Experience** 8:00-2:00pm  
(St. Bernard, Appleton) The Kerygma: Enigma day-long retreat. Mass at 8:00am. Presentations begin at 9:30am.

Mar 16

**Spiritual Self Care** 9:30-12:15pm  
(St. Thomas More, Appleton) Facilitator: Fr. Maximos Davies.

May 18

**Discipleship Check-In** 9:30-12:15pm  
(Silver Lake College) Looking at your parish culture & re-aligning your discipleship efforts. Followed by picnic.

**The New Evangelization Network** meets every two months to support, affirm, and network as ministers who are grappling with the issues of discipleship and evangelization.

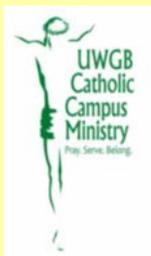


Diocese of Great Bay

Lunch is provided by the Dept. of New Evangelization and there is no charge for any of the events. **Please RSVP** to Maria Garcia at mgarcia@gbdioc.org or call (920) 272-8276. Contact Julianne Stanz with any questions at jstanz@gbdioc.org or call (920) 272-8270.



UWGB Catholic Campus Ministry and Newman Club



## Discipleship

An emphasis this semester in Catholic Campus Ministry has been our call to discipleship. This August the student leaders, in collaboration with students from UW-Oshkosh, had the opportunity to learn from the Burning Hearts Ministry how to share one's faith with others. During these crucial years of college life, when views on self-identity, relationships and religion are solidified, our goal is to equip students with the skills and tools for them to advance the Gospel wherever life leads. **Catholic Campus Ministry at UWGB** strives to help our students grow strong in faith, character and humble hearts. Discipleship changes everything. On campus, we see lost students who need to find the hope that comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ. We see students who are ready to grow in their walks with God, and the incredible potential of young men and women ignited for Jesus and His mission. Discipleship serves as an open door to share Jesus with others through life-on-life relationships. We were gifted with a series of three witnesses who shared their personal story of being called by God to serve. Fr. Scott Valentyn shared his call to priesthood, David Mueller, from Appleton, shared how his call started with working at a Catholic Worker House in New York with Dorothy Day and Bishop David Ricken shared his journey of discipleship from a very young age to being our Bishop in Green Bay. It was striking to see the similarities in each story and the courage of each to answer God's call.

**Sister Laura Zelten, OSF**  
**Catholic Campus Ministry UWGB**  
[lzelten@gbdioc.org](mailto:lzelten@gbdioc.org)

This Friday is the last day of classes. The students are hopefully studying hard. In case they needed extra help, the Newman Center provided them with prayer cards with a prayer for test takers asking for the intercession of Saint Joseph of Cupertino. I tell them, study as if it all depends on you and then pray as if it all depends on God.

This has been a good semester at the Newman Center. We are blessed to have a great staff and Fellowship of Catholic University Student (FOCUS) missionaries. Thank you to Sara and Angela. Thank you to Kyle, Sarah and Brittany.

FOCUS has begun their ministry on our campus. FOCUS is great. We now have six Bible studies on campus with 34 students in them. Our missionaries are investing in a smaller group of students to make them disciple makers. This is called spiritual multiplication. Many students are becoming disciples more deeply. The model of FOCUS is New Evangelization at its best.

Have a great Advent and a Merry Christmas.

Father Jason J. Blahnik  
Catholic Campus Ministry Director, UW-Oshkosh  
[jblahnik@gbdioc.org](mailto:jblahnik@gbdioc.org)

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## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

I was helping at church this week with a fundraiser for the youth group. The young people going on a mission trip this coming summer had sold hundreds of poinsettias and we were getting them ready to be picked up and delivered. Among the group gathered, there happened to be an older woman, a recent widow. She was tired, distracted and sad. Yet she was there. As we sorted and labeled and chatted I was thinking about how I might feel if it were me. I think I would want to curl up and stay in bed all day or try to evade people - people who seem happy and ready to welcome Christmas. However, she was there- doing something - being with people, leaning on the community that was walking with her in her grief surrounded by happy Christmas poinsettias. It was a beautiful thing to see and even more so when laughter and conversation was cajoled out of her hurting, grieving heart.



My thoughts and then my prayers turned toward community. A church is more than a building or a place for events, programs and learning. It is real, alive and consists of people at every stage of their faith and life's journey. The things that bind us together are the Sacraments - ones we celebrate regularly, but also ones with a little "s." Those are the ones that happen all around us often unnoticed. I witnessed a few of those with the fundraiser. The sacrament of being present for another person with no special words, just being there. The sacrament of listening, and hearing the need,

the sadness and the hope. And then the sacrament of naming things - like grief.  
"How are you holding up?" "How are the boys doing and are they coming home for Christmas?" "You will need each other more than ever now."

Our celebration of the Eucharist calls us to go out to be sacrament to other - to bless, uplift and share Jesus, Emmanuel - with the world. As your church fills with visitors and those familiar, young adults home from college or relatives home for a visit with family - be a place of welcome. Be a place where the sacrament of presence is shared. Be a place where it is known that Jesus has come!

**Merry Christmas,**  
*Jane Angha*



**Sponsored by the Department of New Evangelization.  
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**If you have any questions or comments, please contact:  
Department of New Evangelization  
[newevangelization@gbdioc.org](mailto:newevangelization@gbdioc.org)  
(920)272-8276**

The Department of New Evangelization Inspires and Equips Parishes to Form Disciples in the New Evangelization of Our Lord, Jesus Christ through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

