

Evangelization & Mission  
Team

PCL Connect E-Newsletter  
Glorifying God – Growing in Faith  
Living our Catholic Faith in the World  
November 2023 Edition

*“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.” (Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 164)*

**Fall Ministry Enrichment Morning Sessions for PCLs on November 7 and 9– Digital Evangelization with Alexis Nicholson:**



As we get to know Alexis Nicholson, our new Digital Evangelization Specialist, she is pivoting our digital strategy based upon the Discipleship Thresholds from Sherry Weddell's *Forming Intentional Disciples*. At the end of our session you will better understand how to use digital media to engage with parish families and evangelize to make disciples.

We will also have time for you to ask Alexis lots of questions, to get to know her and her to get to know the amazing ministry you provide your parish community.

Patty Origer will visit with us around Disability Ministry topics appropriate for those in lifelong formation in faith ministry and I will share the development of the discernment process for studying the confirmation age question.

A light breakfast and lunch will be provided by the Diocese of Des Moines. RSVP to Sherri Simmer by November 3 so we can make sure we have enough food and resources available for you.

- November 7 session will be held at St. Patrick parish in Neola. We will be in the Faith Formation Building on the north side of the property. Thank you Shannon for hosting us.
- November 9 session will be held at Ss. John & Paul parish in Altoona. We will be in the Founder's Hall which is the original parish hall. Enter through the main doors on the south side of the property. Thank you Jenni for hosting us.

**Save the Date – Preparing for the OCIA – Implementing the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults:**



Father Trevor Chicoine and John Gaffney have just signed a contract with LTP for OCIA formation for OCIA coordinators, team members and clergy. More information to come including registration, but

find dates and information below.

*Virtual Open House Meeting*

January 23, 2024 – 6:00 to 7:30 pm

**Sharing Your Obstacles & Struggles, Hopes & Dreams**

Join with other initiation ministry coordinators from around the diocese as we begin to discuss the ways in which we can turn our ministerial obstacles and struggles into new and inspiring opportunities. Experts from Liturgy Training Publications will guide this informal conversation.

**Schedule:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 | 6:00–7:30pm

**Cost:** Free

**Location:** Virtual (utilizing the Zoom meeting platform)

**Audience:** Initiation Ministry Coordinators

*3-Part Virtual Workshop Series*

**February 27, March 5 and 12, 2024 – 6:00 to 7:30 pm**

**The Principles of Initiation Ministry**

Together, we will break open six principles of ministry, share practical ways they are realized in a parish, and reframe our obstacles and struggles as opportunities for growth, learning, and success. and for attending the in-person workshop in September 2024.

**Schedule:** Tuesdays, February 27, March 5 & 12, 2024 | 6:00–7:30pm

**Location:** Virtual (utilizing the Adobe Connect platform)

**Audience:** Initiation Ministry Coordinators & Teams, Priests, Deacons

*At the same time, this workshop series will also be available in Spanish.*

*In-Person Workshop*

**September 14, 2024 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**An Introduction to the OCIA**

**The Vision of Christian Initiation Ministry**

Participants at this daylong gathering will receive an overview of the four stages of initiation and the rituals that accompany them. In addition, we will examine the importance of discernment during the catechumenal journey, as well as the role of the baptized faithful. Finally, the presenters will highlight the anticipated changes between the current ritual text and the upcoming translation of the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

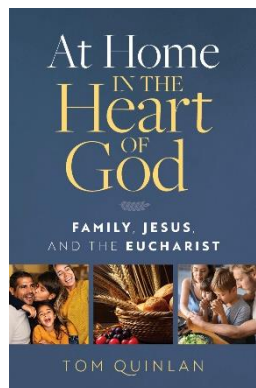
**Schedule:** Saturday, September 14, 2024 | 9:00am–4:00pm

**Location:** Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church 106 West 6th St., Atlantic, IA 50022

**Audience:** Initiation Ministry Coordinators & Teams, Priests, Deacons

*At the same time and location, this workshop will also be available in Spanish.*

### **New Eucharistic Revival Resource – *At Home in the Heart of God* by Tom Quinlan:**



Tom has written an inspiring book that is also very practical as he invites parents to consider how the love they have for their children reflects the love that God has for you and me. This love is reflected in a particular way in the gift of the Eucharist.

The booklet is 48 pages and would be very helpful for parents accompanying their children into first holy communion and parents who have recently baptized their children.

The publisher is Twenty-Third Publications and they have an excellent bulk rate pricing option to make this very affordable for you to distribute to parents or to use in special parent programming. Find out more at this link - <https://twentythirdpublications.com/products/at-home-in-the-heart-of-god>.

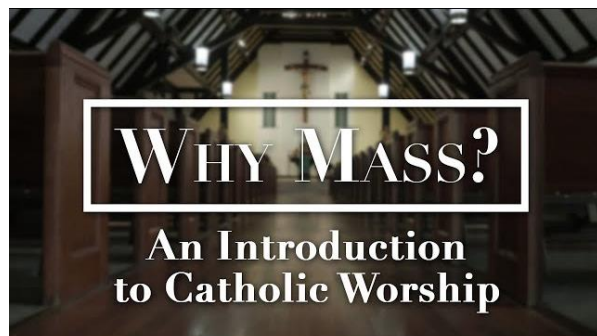
### **Family Resources for Advent:**

Kristi Quinlan and Alexis Nicholson are working hard on reimagining our Family Advent Digital Resources. They will be out soon. Kristi and Alexis will be working on Lenten Resources this fall as well to have out in plenty of time before Ash Wednesday.

Other Advent materials that incorporate Family Themes:

- Franciscan Media
  - [A Catholic Family Advent](#)
- Twenty-Third Publications
  - [Learning to Love like Jesus](#)
  - [Advent for Families 2023](#)
- Our Sunday Visitor
  - [Advent in the Home](#)
- [Loyola Press Advent website](#)

### **Why Mass Facilitation Guides Available:**



Attached to this e-newsletter are facilitation guides to accompany the [Why Mass Video Series](#). A team of diocesan and parish staff designed the guides for parish staff who may be facilitating a group or use in RCIA, or for Pete and Paula in the pew at a parish who decides to form a small group, for use as a way of entering into Eucharistic Revival, for Catholic School

principals who wish to use this with staff, for parents to use at home with their family, or people who just want to use them privately.

Even though the videos are not recorded in Spanish, you can turn on auto-translate on YouTube by clicking on the CC button (for closed captioning) and then click on the gear symbol to the right. Click on the subtitles and auto translate. Select Spanish and your video will have Spanish subtitles.

Future video projects, in fact all future projects coming out of the Evangelization and Mission Team, will have a Spanish component. Please know some legacy resources will not immediately have Spanish language equivalents. We will be working on this throughout this fiscal year.

### **Items from Disability Ministry:**

#### **International Day of Persons with Disabilities is on December 3, 2023:**



- [NCPD resources and toolkits](#) to invite persons with disabilities to foster awareness and invite all God’s children to share their gifts.
- From the above link you can access some resources of [5 video series called “I am Church”](#)
- Being differently abled does not limit someone from being a “fully-fledged member of the ecclesial community”. Pope Francis reminded us of this when he said that Baptism gives everyone, “without exclusion or discrimination”, the possibility to exclaim: “I am Church!”
- [2023 Pope’s Pontifical Message](#) on December 3, for International Day of Persons with Disabilities will be posted here or read previous years messages.

#### **Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network and Monthly Day of Prayer for Mental Health:**

Please share these prayers through your parish bulletin or other parish media and social media outlets (see attachments). By doing so, you are helping your community join with the Pope in praying for mental health ministry and showing your community the importance of mental health ministry in the Church. **Mark your calendar for Monday, November 9th, for the next Monthly Day of Prayer for Mental Health.**



Please contact **Patty Origer**, Coordinator of Persons with Disability Ministry if you have questions or need additional resources.

#### **November Important Dates:**

- November 1 – [Solemnity of All Saints](#)
- November 2 – [Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed](#)
- November 3 – [Saint Martin de Porres](#)
- November 4 – [Saint Charles Borromeo](#)
- November 8 – [Blessed John Duns Scotus](#)



- November 9 – [Dedication of Saint John Lateran Basilica](#)
- November 10 – [Saint Leo the Great](#)
- November 11 – [Saint Martin of Tours](#)
- November 13 – [Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini](#)
- November 15 – [Saint Albert the Great](#)
- November 16 – [Saint Margaret of Scotland](#)
- November 17 – [Saint Elizabeth of Hungary](#)
- November 18 – [Dedication of Churches of Saints Peter and Paul](#)
- November 20 – [Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne](#)
- November 21 – [Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
- November 22 – [Saint Cecilia](#)
- November 23 – [Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro](#)
- November 24 – [Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions](#)
- November 25 – [Saint Catherine of Alexandria](#)
- November 26 – [Saint Columban](#)
- November 29 – [Saint Clement](#)
- November 30 – [Saint Andrew](#)

