

Dear Parish Catechetical Leaders,

As we mourn as a nation on this anniversary of 9/11, let us together pray:

God of Peace and Mercy, on this anniversary for September 11, we lift up the souls who perished on that day. Welcome them with loving arms into Your kingdom. Comfort their families and friends. Help us to mourn alongside them with a constant compassion that can only be rooted in You. May we look to the first responders that day to inspire us to live bravely and courageously, and to selflessly protect others in need. May we look to those who opened up their homes to the stranded and displaced that day to stir us to be more hospitable. Having seen the face of evil and darkness, may we be steadfast and faithful in pursuing You, our perpetual Light. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

For additional prayers to commemorate 9/11, [click here](#).

We pray that as this new catechetical year begins, you know how deeply loved and appreciated you are for all you do to bring families closer to Jesus!

We are pleased to share the following important information and resources to support you in ministry.

[Please click here for a flyer with all our upcoming events to share with your catechists.](#)

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 17TH!

- This year's Catechetical Sunday theme is "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened" - Matthew 11:28.
- You can [Visit the USCCB website here for all Catechetical Sunday resources](#).
- For more information, visit [About Catechetical Sunday](#).

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

- Empowering God's Children is required for all parish faith formation programs.
- Lessons 5 and 6 will be required for the 2023-2024 faith formation year and must be completed by April 1, 2024.
- For any questions/concerns regarding the Empowering God's Children Program, please contact **Karen Clark, Director, Department for the Protection of the Faithful at 973-497-4254 or Karen.Clark@rcan.org**
- Important resources:
 - [Please CLICK HERE to access the Safe Environment File in our PCL Resources Folder which includes PowerPoint presentations shared by Karen Clark with details and more information.](#) (Password: RCAN-PCL-EGC)
 - [Click Here for the Empowering God's Children Webpage](#) (Scroll Down for Program Overview and Teaching Guidelines for Parents in English and Spanish)

UPCOMING COUNTY MEETINGS FOR PCLS – Save the Date!

In-person and online options available for most meetings – Locations and details TBD.

- **BERGEN COUNTY PCLS** - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (LOCATION TBD)
- **HUDSON COUNTY PCLS** - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (LOCATION TBD)
- **PART-TIME/VOLUNTEER PCLS** - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM (Online only via Zoom)
- **ESSEX COUNTY PCLS** - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark ([Click here to RSVP for this meeting](#))
- **UNION COUNTY PCLS** - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (LOCATION TBD)
- **SPANISH PCLS** - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM (Online only via Zoom)

WE'VE MOVED..... TO A NEW WEBSITE!

- We are excited to announce that our web presence is now integrated into the newly revamped Archdiocesan website - www.rcan.org.
- **Our new domain will be www.rcan.org/catechetics** . We ask that you visit our page and bookmark it in your browser since we know it is one of your favorites!
- **[CLICK HERE FOR A FLYER WITH MORE DETAILS TO SHARE WITH YOUR CATECHISTS.](#)**

DIRECTORY DEEP DIVE

- We are excited to offer a unique opportunity for us to gather, share, and begin to explore how the new Directory of Catechesis can come to life in our parishes.
- We invite you to our monthly “Directory Deep Dive”. Our next meeting is on **September 13th at 10:30am on Zoom.**
- **[RSVP/Sign-up HERE](#) - It's not too late to join us!**

DIRECTORY DEEP DIVE IN SPANISH

- We are excited to offer Spanish speaking PCLs a unique opportunity for us to gather, share, and begin to explore how the new Directory of Catechesis can come to life in our parishes.
- We invite you to our monthly “Directory Deep Dive” in Spanish. Our next meeting is on **September 13th at 7:30 pm on Zoom.**
- **[RSVP/Sign-up HERE](#) - It's not too late to join us!**

CATECHIST FORMATION/CERTIFICATION COURSES

- The Catechetical Office will offer [these courses](#) open to all catechists at St. Aloysius School in Caldwell, NJ.
- **Vocation of the Catechist** course will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023 from 9am - 3:30pm - **[REGISTER HERE](#)**. Additional dates will be announced soon.
- **Methodology** will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024 from 9am - 3:30pm - **[REGISTER HERE](#)**
- For more information, contact Yalila Murillo at yalila.murillo@rcan.org or (973) 497-4294.

CATECHIST FORMATION/CERTIFICATION COURSES IN SPANISH

- The Catechetical Office will offer [these classes](#) open to all catechists and will be hosted and presented by our team at Holy Trinity Church at 34 Maple Avenue in Hackensack.
- The Vocation of the Catechist class will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023 – **[REGISTER HERE](#)**
- Methodology will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2024 - **[REGISTER HERE](#)**
- For more information, contact Yalila Murillo at yalila.murillo@rcan.org or (973) 497-4294.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE NEW TESTAMENT – ADULT FAITH FORMATION/CATECHIST CERTIFICATION COURSE

- Wednesday, September 20 and Thursday, September 21, 2023 from 6-9 p.m. both evenings
- Only \$20 per person! (50% discount – subsidized by scholarship funds from the American Bible Society)
- This course explores the Word of God in the life of the Church and each individual Christian by briefly examining history, literary style, theology, and spirituality of the New Testament.
- **[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)** All catechists, Catholic school teachers, and adults are welcome!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SACRAMENTS – ADULT FAITH FORMATION/CATECHIST CERTIFICATION COURSE

- Tuesday, October 10 and Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 6-9 p.m. both evenings
- This course offers an overview of the 7 Sacraments as rooted in salvation history and the coming of Christ. We will examine how the Church celebrates life and the mysteries of God's presence through the Sacraments.
- [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!](#) All catechists, Catholic school teachers, and adults are welcome!

ATTENTION ALL ADULT FAITH FORMATION LEADERS

- Our office is hosting a meeting to gather all adult faith formation leaders to focus on preparation for the Advent season in our parishes.
- **Thursday, September 28th at 10 a.m. in-person at the Archdiocesan Center, Newark and at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.**
- [Click here for a flyer!](#) Kindly share this information with the adult faith formation leaders in your parish.
- **RSVP REQUIRED - [Please click here to RSVP for the meeting of your preference.](#)**

OUR CATECHIST CONVOCATION RETURNS!!

- It is with great joy that we invite you to our annual Catechist Convocation!
- **Saturday, November 4th (8AM Check-in to 2 p.m.) at Paramus Catholic High School, Paramus**
- Bishop Michael Saporito, Regional Bishop for Bergen County, will be our celebrant at 8:45 AM in Mass.
- Our keynote presenters will be:
 - Alex Jones, CEO of Hallow in English
 - Jaimie Gil, Director of Spanish Content for Hallow in Spanish.
- [CLICK HERE FOR THE "Save the Date" ANNOUNCEMENT IN ENGLISH](#)
- [CLICK HERE FOR THE "Save the Date" ANNOUNCEMENT IN SPANISH](#)
- Please share these flyers with all serving in catechetical ministry at your school and/or parish including parish catechists and Catholic School religion teachers, sacramental preparation coordinators/teachers, adult faith formation leaders, and RCIA teams.
- **REGISTRATION OPENS THIS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15!** Be sure to spread the word, gather your friends, and plan to attend. *YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!*

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOOL OF PRAYER

- Beginning in September 2023 we will offer a 7 session course to enrich your spiritual life.
- The course which meets on the third Wednesday of each month will be offered as a series.
- All sessions offered in person at Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center - 499 Belgrove Drive - Kearny
- 6:30 Refreshments/Fellowship – Course runs from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- [Click here for more information and registration details.](#)

CALLED YOUTH RALLY/CONFIRMATION RETREATS

- "CALLED" are Youth Rally/ Retreat Days for ALL middle and high school students and teens preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation OR for Middle School/ High School Youth Ministry Programs. There are four CALLED Rally Days planned for the upcoming faith formation year on the following Saturdays:
 - October 7th, 2023
 - January 27th, 2024
 - February 24th, 2024
 - April 27, 2024
- [CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

MERCY HOUSE

- The Mercy House, currently with locations in Newark and Jersey City, seeks volunteers and donations for its growing needs. Each location now serves over 200 people weekly!
- The Mercy House also offer service hours to volunteers, small groups, school or parish groups for service day, etc.
- [Watch this video](#) to learn more about The Mercy House's mission, upcoming new locations, and items that are urgently needed.
- Contact the Respect Life Office at (973) 497-4350 or [visit their webpage](#) to learn more.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY OF CATECHETICAL LEADERS (NCCL)

NEW RESOURCES AND EVENTS

- **2023 Family & Intergenerational Faith Formation Survey Report** - In the Spring of 2023, NCCL conducted a national survey to identify how Catholic parishes are implementing family faith formation and intergenerational (all ages together) faith formation. A total of 303 Catholic parishes completed the survey. [Click here to download the report](#) and learn about
- **Journey to the Future of Catechesis - 2023 NCCL Convocations** ([CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION](#))
 - **September 26-27: Baltimore - Bon Secours Center, Marriottsville, MD – Join the Catechetical Office Staff for this Convocation!**
 - October 3-4: Dallas - Hilton Garden Inn DFW Airport South
 - October 10-11: Connecticut - Holy Family Retreat Center, W. Hartford, CT
 - October 17-18: Chicago - Hilton Garden Inn O'Hare Airport
 - October 24-25: Tampa - Franciscan Center
 - November 29-30: San Diego - Hilton Garden Inn Mission Valley

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL 2022-2025

- **NEW! BEHOLD – A Live 3-night Encounter!** ([Click here for details](#))
 - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND and FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD at 7:00PM
 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH at 5:00PM
 - At the CATHEDRAL BASILICA of the Sacred Heart, Newark. Contact CATHEDRALINFO@RCAN.ORG for more information
- **[New York State Eucharistic Congress](#)**
 - October 20-22, 2023 at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Martyrs in Auriesville, New York.
 - Featuring faith, fellowship, and Eucharistic Adoration, there will be music, talks, and more available at this historic event.
 - Tickets are being offered free of charge! Visit the website at <https://nyseucharisticcongress.org> for more information about the Eucharistic Congress and to register today.
- **[EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL PARISH LEADERS' GUIDE](#)**
 - The USCCB Parish Leaders' Playbook is now available in both English and Spanish. It can be downloaded for free.
- **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**
 - [Archdiocese of Newark Parish Resource Page](#)
 - [Revive with Fr. Agustino Torres, CFR](#) - Official podcast of the USCCB's National Eucharistic Revival
 - [Click here for resources and information from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)
 - [Array of Hope – BEHOLD](#)
 - **Article:** [National Eucharistic Revival: Here's what you need to know](#)
 - [Click here for resources from Our Sunday Visitor](#)
 - [Your Guide To The National Eucharistic Revival Resources](#) – from Catholic Link – includes children's resources!

FAMILY FAITH EVENTS AND RESOURCES FOR UPCOMING FEASTS/LITURGICAL YEAR/THE CALENDAR YEAR

Catholic Parenting Conference

- Saturday, October 28, 2023 - 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
- St. Pius X Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids, IA – VIRTUAL OPTION AVAILABLE
- This conference is for parents of all ages and stages, and will include dynamic speakers, time to discuss the joys and challenges of parenting, and resources, insights, and information on various aspects of parenting to help strengthen your domestic church!
- [Click here for more information and registration details.](#)

TIPS FOR TALKING TO TWEENS AND TEENS ABOUT FAITH

- As our teens and tweens dive into the new school year, are they also diving more deeply into their Catholic faith?
- [Ablaze Family Ministries](#) offers an [article](#) with tips to guide you in conversations about faith.

SEPTEMBER SAINTS AND FEASTS - [Click HERE for ALL SEPTEMBER Saints of the Month!](#)

September is the month dedicated to [Our Lady of Sorrows.](#)

- We pray with the [Seven Sorrows of Mary](#), most especially those lived during Jesus' passion and death.
- Mary was perfect, but her life wasn't perfect. She experienced pain, humiliation, and sorrow just as we do. The painful events in Mary's life make her a unique participant in Christ's own sacrifice.
- Pray a [Novena](#) to receive the [Seven Promises](#) of the Seven Sorrows Devotion.

September 12 - [The Most Holy Name of Mary](#)

- We [honor Mary](#) with [many names](#), because she is the Mother of God.
- We receive many graces by calling on her [intercession](#) through many [holy titles](#).
- Pray the "[Hail Mary](#)" as a family every day this month as the Church honors Mary.

September 14 - [Exaltation of the Holy Cross](#)

- The cross is a reminder of our salvation and a source of new life. As we gaze at Jesus on the crucifix, we can grow closer to him.
- [Deepen your devotion](#) to the Holy Cross.
- Pray the [Way of the Cross](#) as a family, and talk about and [practice](#) the [Sign of the Cross](#).
- Enjoy a [cross craft](#) and other [activities](#) as a family.

September 15 - [Our Lady of Sorrows](#)

- When we experience suffering, we have no better companion than [Mary](#), who offers strength, comfort, and renewed faith even in our trials.
- She also experienced great suffering as the Mother of Jesus, and knows the pain of our wounded hearts.
- Learn about the [Seven Dolors](#) (or [Sorrows](#)) of Mary, and pray the [Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows](#).
- [Turn to Our Lady of Sorrows](#) for love and strength to bear your crosses with patience and peace.

September 21 – [St. Matthew](#), Apostle and Evangelist

- [St. Matthew](#) wrote one of the four [gospels](#).
- Although he was a tax collector, money was not important to [St. Matthew](#). What was important was believing in and living as a follower of Jesus.
- [St. Matthew](#) helps us to remember that it is our [faith in Jesus that makes us truly rich!](#) Learn more [here](#).

September 24 - Priesthood Sunday

- Priesthood Sunday is a special day to honor priesthood in the United States.
- [Pray](#) for priests and find ways for your family to show their appreciation for your parish priest.

September 24 - [World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#)

- Learn about how Catholic Social Teaching addresses questions and misconceptions regarding the Church's role in serving migrants and refugees.

September 29 – [Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels](#)

- The [three Archangels](#) Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael are the only [angels](#) named in sacred scripture, and all three have [important roles](#) in the history of salvation.
- [St. Michael](#) is the protector. [St. Gabriel](#) is the messenger of good news. [St. Raphael](#) is the healing angel.
- Learn more about the Archangels [here](#).

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHING THE FAITH

- October 1 - [Respect Life Sunday](#)
- October 7 - [Our Lady of the Rosary](#)
- October 22 - [World Mission Sunday](#)
- October 31 - [Halloween](#)

We hope this information is helpful to you. Our office exists to support you in ministry. Please let us know how we can best serve you.

- **Bergen and Union County PCLs** – contact Patty Rodriguez, Director, at Patricia.Rodriguez@rcan.org
- **Essex and Hudson PCLs / Adult and Family Faith Formation** – contact Joanne at Joanne.DePasquale-Parent@rcan.org
- **Catechist Formation and Catechesis in Catholic Schools** – contact Gina at Gina.Butler@rcan.org
- **PCLs serving the Hispanic Community** – contact Oswaldo at Oswaldo.Sanchez@rcan.org
- **For additional support**, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Yalila at Yalila.Murillo@rcan.org

With our love and heartfelt prayers for you,

The Catechetical Office Staff