

## **December 2023 – PCL Monthly Email**

We are pleased to share the following important information and resources to support you in your ministry. [To view all our upcoming events, click here!](#)

**Kindly carefully read through this email for key resources shared during our meetings and additional significant resources/events to support you in ministry. Thank you!**

### **DECEMBER PCL COUNTY MEETING VIDEO LINKS**

Thank you to all who were able to join us for our PCL County Meetings earlier this month. If you were not able to join us and would like to view your county's meeting, here are the links to the recordings:

- [VIDEO LINK](#) for HUDSON/PART-TIME/VOLUNTEER PCLs EVENING MEETING on 11/29/2023
- [VIDEO LINK](#) for BERGEN PCLs MEETING on 11/30/2023
- [VIDEO LINK](#) for UNION PCLs MEETING on 12/6/2023
- [VIDEO LINK](#) for ESSEX PCLs MEETING on 12/7/2023
- [VIDEO LINK](#) for SPANISH PCLs MEETING on 12/14/2023 – Please contact [Oswaldo](#) for the video link

### **SAVE THE DATES! - UPCOMING 2024 COUNTY MEETING DATES**

Here are the dates for our next county meetings for PCLs:

- **BERGEN COUNTY** – January 31<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. via Zoom
- **HUDSON COUNTY** – February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. via Zoom
- **PART-TIME/VOLUNTEER PCLs OF ALL COUNTIES** – February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **ESSEX COUNTY** – February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. – In person at the Archdiocesan Center ([RSVP HERE](#))
- **UNION COUNTY** – February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. via Zoom
- **SPANISH PCLs** - February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

### **RESOURCES SHARED AT PCL MEETINGS**

- [CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR PCLs](#) – Updated!
- [RCAN Synod information page – Report](#)
- [2024 – Year of Prayer / 2025 – Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope](#)
- [NCCL Professional Development Courses](#) and National Catholic Certificate Program for PCLs (Contact [Patty](#))
- [“The Hospitality of Advent”](#) Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology daily Advent reflection series
- [Office for Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities](#) – Updates – [November Newsletter](#)
- Catholic Charities service opportunities ([CLICK HERE for more information](#))
- [“Called” Youth Rally Days](#): Sat., February 24th, 2024 / Sat., April 27, 2024
- [Catholic Civil Dialogue Initiative](#) – Info Session/Training ([RSVP HERE](#))
- Eucharistic Revival Resources/Events
  - [EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL PARISH LEADERS’ GUIDE](#)
  - [Archdiocese of Newark Parish Resource Page](#)
  - [Click here for resources and information from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)
- [Family Faith Formation](#) – Advent/Christmas Resources
- [Adult Faith Formation](#)
  - [AFF Leaders Meeting](#) – Next meeting –1/4/24 ([click here to RSVP](#))
  - [Spotlight Adult Faith Formation / Catechist Certification courses](#)

- [New Testament](#) Online Course
  - [Old Testament](#) Online Course
  - [Sacraments](#) Online Course
  - [New Testament In-Person Course](#)
  - [Morality](#) Online Course
- Blue Christmas Masses – [St. James, Springfield](#) – [Little Flower, Berkley Heights](#)
- **[Catechesis with Hispanics](#)**
  - [Methodology](#) in Spanish – Jan. 27, 2024 - Host Parish: Holy Trinity, Hackensack
- **[Catechist Formation](#) and [Catechesis in Catholic Schools](#)**
  - Convocation Thank You and Feedback (Convocation 2024 – Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>!)
  - [Methodology](#) – Feb 3, 2024 – Host Parish: St. Aloysius, Caldwell
  - [Vocation of the Catechist](#) at St. Philomena Parish in Livingston, Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Interested in hosting a Catechist Formation Orientation, Vocation of the Catechist, and/or Methodology Course at your parish? [Please complete this form](#) and contact [Gina](#) for more information.

### **[PARISH CONFIRMATION RETREAT LIST](#)**

- PCLs often contact our office when they need alternative Confirmation retreat options for their candidates. With your help we'd like to create a Parish Confirmation Retreat list that PCLs can easily access if they have Confirmation candidates who need to attend a Confirmation retreat.
- [Please fill out this form](#) if you are willing and able to accommodate additional Confirmation candidates from other parishes at your Confirmation Retreat.

### **[STAFF PLANNING DAYS – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!](#)**

- Each year in January, the Catechetical Office Staff takes time to pray, discern, and plan for the next year of catechetical ministry. We rely on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and on your prayers/input for our successful and fruitful planning. Please keep us close in prayer as we strive to be attentive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to direct us. Kindly [CLICK HERE](#) to complete a very brief survey to share your ideas and thoughts.

### **[THE GATHERING – NEW DATE - Tuesday, January 23, 2024](#) - [Click here for details and to register by January 21st](#)**

- An event for all who accompany the faithful in parish ministries and Catholic schools.
- Focus: Pastoral Care of Children – Helping families encounter God in the Liturgy.

### **[SETON VALUES SUMMIT: FAITH AND WORK](#) - [Click Here for more information and to register](#)**

- The Center for Catholic Studies at Seton Hall University and RENEW International invite you to a one-day summit on balancing faith and work in your everyday life.
- Saturday, March 9, 2024 - 8:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. at Seton Hall University

### **[GATHERING ON YOUTH MINISTRY - JANUARY 31<sup>ST</sup>](#) - [Click here to learn more and to register](#)**

- Ministering to Generation Z – A night for all those that walk with young people in our parishes.
- 6:30-9:30PM at the St. John Paul II Youth Retreat Center in Kearny – includes dinner.

## **NCCL FREE ONLINE CONFERENCES THIS JANUARY**

- January 18, 2024: 1-3 pm
  - Emerging Trends in Ministry with Youth and Young Adults
  - Presenter - Paul Jarzembowski, Associate Director for the Laity, USCCB
  - [Click here for more information and to register.](#)
- January 19, 2024: 1-3 pm ET
  - Practices and Models of Family Catechesis and Implementing Family Catechesis in Parishes
  - Presenters - Paulette Chapman, Joan Weber, and John Roberto
  - [Click here for information and to register.](#)

## **FAMILY FAITH RESOURCES FOR UPCOMING FEASTS / LITURGICAL YEAR / CALENDAR YEAR**

### **ADVENT** – [Click here to download a PDF of Advent Resources](#)

- [Archdiocese of Newark Advent Resource Page](#)
- [What is Advent All About?](#)
- [Five Fast Facts About Advent](#)
- [What is Advent?](#) Learn more about Advent, find resources, prayers, and more (USCCB)
- [Faith Alive in the Home – Advent](#)
- [10 Meaningful Advent Traditions for Catholic Families](#)
- [Advent Wreath at Home](#)
- [Advent activities](#) for the whole family
- [ADVENT EVENT](#) – December 3<sup>rd</sup> - a fun and meaningful *hour-long virtual event* for the *whole family* that will get you ready and excited for ADVENT!
- [Free downloadable and printable resources for the season of Advent](#) – RCL Benziger
- [3D Nativity Coloring Kit](#)
- [Prepare the Way of the Lord](#) – Free Weekly Advent tips, simple prayers and Catholic family traditions
- [Blessing of the Advent Wreath](#)
- [Advent Prayer Service](#)
- [ADVENT ANGEL](#) - A Catholic Alternative to Elf on a Shelf
- Decorate a Christmas tree, and pray a [Christmas Tree Blessing](#).
- Create a [Journey to Bethlehem](#) - Using the family Nativity figures, set up the stable in a special prayer space. Each day of the Advent season, move the figures closer to their final destination on Christmas Day (when Jesus also appears).
- Have a [Blessing of the Christmas Manger](#) or Nativity Scene.

### **December 12 - Feast of [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)**

- The Virgin of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego. Learn more about this feast day [here](#).
- [Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)
- Watch [this video](#) of the story of St. Juan Diego and Our Lady for children (35 min)
- [Crafts](#) for Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego
- Our Lady of Guadalupe [Coloring Page](#)
- [Quick facts, videos, food, and more!](#)

### **December 17-23 – Celebrate The “O” Antiphons**

- The [O Antiphons](#) are a series of [seven verses](#) listing a name of Jesus taken from [scripture](#). They are the basis of the popular Advent hymn, “[O Come, O Come Emmanuel.](#)”
- Use the antiphons as [prayers](#), download these [reflection cards](#), and try [these recipes](#) during the week of [O Antiphons!](#)

### **December 24 - Christmas Eve**

- Catholic [Christmas Eve Customs](#)
- Start a New Christmas Eve [Family Tradition](#)

### **December 25 - [The Nativity of the Lord](#) – Christmas Day**

- Learn about [Catholic Christmas traditions](#)
- Download these printable Christmas [prayers](#) to celebrate the joyous season with your family!
- Share the symbolism and meaning of the season with [The Origin of the 12 Days of Christmas](#).

### **December 28 - The [Feast of the Holy Innocents](#)**

- To learn more about the Holy Innocents, click [here](#).

### **December 31 - The [Feast of the Holy Family](#) of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

- [Consecrate your family](#) to the Holy Family
- The Holy Family [Activity](#) from Sadlier Religion Resources
- Learn more about his feast day [here](#).

### **December 31 - New Year's Eve**

- Each year we [thank God](#) for the blessings of the past year and look forward to the [new year](#).
- Check out these New Year's [Prayers and Blessings](#). Create a [fun and holy](#) New Year's Eve with your family!

### **Grandparents and Holiday Family Traditions**

- Check out [this article](#) by Bill Clarke of *The Georgia Bulletin*, to learn more about grandparents and holiday family traditions!

### **January 1 – [Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God](#)**

- Why is Mary called the [Mother of God](#)? Why do we honor Mary and call her Blessed? Mary is the Mother of God because of who JESUS is! And all generations will call Mary blessed.
- [Celebrate the New Year](#) with Mary, Mother of God.
- [Learn more](#) about the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.
- [Coloring Page](#)

### **January 3 - [The Most Holy Name of Jesus](#)**

- [Why Do We Celebrate](#) the Holy Name of Jesus? Learn more about this devotion [here](#).
- St. Paul wrote that God the Father gave Christ Jesus "that [name which is above every other name](#)" (Phil 2:9).
- [Litany of the Most Holy Name of Jesus](#)

### **January 6 - [The Epiphany of the Lord](#)**

[Epiphany](#) commemorates the visit of the Magi, the three kings bearing gifts for the newborn Christ Child.

- Printable Epiphany [Journaling Novena Booklet](#)
- [Leading others to Epiphany](#)
- Keep the [Festivities](#) of the Christmas season going with a [Prayer Service](#), [Epiphany crafts](#) and [activities](#).

### **January 7 - [Baptism of the Lord](#)**

- Feast of the Baptism of the Lord ([video](#))
- [The Baptism of Jesus](#) (from Saddleback Kids)
- [Why is Baptism Important?](#)

## **ADDITIONAL FAMILY RESOURCES**

- [Loyola Press](#) Family Resources
- [The Kids Bulletin](#) for Sunday
- [Holy Cross Family Ministries](#)
- [The Kennedy Adventures](#) - Practical solutions for Catholic parents
- [CathFamily](#) - Resource library for raising children in the Catholic Faith
- [Strong Catholic Family](#) - resources and activities for Catholic families
- [Faith and Fabric](#) - Activities for Catholic families
- [The Catholic Toolbox](#) - ideas, inspiration and resources for catechists and parents
- [Busted Halo](#) - articles, video, podcasts, radio, and social media for "saints in the making"
- [Teaching Catholic Kids](#) from Our Sunday Visitor

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

With our love and heartfelt prayers for you,

### **The Catechetical Office Staff**



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