

January 2024 – Monthly PCL Email

We are pleased to share the following important information in addition to the [Catechetical Office Website](#). Our website is full of valuable tools for PCLs to flourish in ministry, such as:

- [Catechist Formation for Parishes](#)
- [Adult Faith Formation](#)
- [Family Faith Formation](#)
- [Faith Formation with the Hispanic Community](#)
- [PCL Resource Folder](#)
- [Annual Report Resources](#)
- [Empowering God's Children Resources](#)
- [Synod on Synodality Catechetical and Family Resources](#)
- [To view all our upcoming events, click here!](#)

Please carefully read through this email for significant resources/events to support you in ministry.

SAVE THE DATES! - UPCOMING 2024 COUNTY MEETING DATES

This a loving reminder that our next PCL county meetings are quickly approaching. We have many new and important Archdiocesan announcements to share.

Here are the dates, times, and locations for all our upcoming county meetings. You are welcome to participate in the meeting of your choice:

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

Important notes:

- ***Our Discussion Topic is Catechist Formation, Recruitment, and Retention – What are best practices to recruit and keep catechists?***
- Our PCL County meetings will be recorded for those who are unable to participate during the live meeting.
- We are currently working on finalizing our meeting agenda. ***If there is anything you would like to add to the agenda, please contact us at Catechetical.Office@rcan.org.***

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!! THE GATHERING – Tuesday, January 23, 2024

- 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.
- [Click here for details and to register TODAY](#)

IMPORTANT - CALL TO ACTION: DUE 2/9 - Annual Report and Catechist List Updates

- [CLICK HERE TO COMPLETE THE REPORT FOR THE 2023-2024 CATECHETICAL YEAR BY FEBRUARY 9TH](#). *This report must be completed and submitted ONLINE. Printed, emailed, or faxed reports will not be accepted.*
 - *The online survey form does not save your work until you SUBMIT the form. Once you begin, you must complete and submit the report.*
 - *For a preview of the questions, please refer to the [ANNUAL REPORT QUESTIONS PDF](#). **The PDF document is for preview purposes only. Report submissions will ONLY be accepted using the online form.***
- Please update the information for your program catechists at Learn.rcan.org by February 9th.
- For easy access to the online report and other helpful resources please visit the [Annual Report page on the Catechetical Office webpage](#).

RESOURCES SHARED AT PCL MEETINGS

- [CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR PCLs](#) – Updated!
- [RCAN Synod information page – Report](#)
- COMING SOON! [Visit from the Vatican Synod Undersecretary](#)
- [2024 – Year of Prayer / 2025 – Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope](#)
- [NCCL Professional Development Courses](#) and National Catholic Certificate Program for PCLs (Contact [Patty](#) for more information)
 - [Catechesis on Prayer & Prayer Practices](#) - Tuesdays February 6 & 13 (1 pm - 2:30 pm)
 - [Leadership Skills & Practices for Catechetical Leaders](#) - Thursdays March 7 & March 14 (1 pm - 2:30 pm)
 - [Building Intercultural Competence in Catechetical Ministry](#) - Thursdays April 11 & 18 (1 pm - 2:30 pm)
 - [Inviting, Forming, and Supporting Parish Catechists](#) - Tuesdays May 7 & May 14 (1 pm - 2:30 pm)
- [Family Faith Formation](#) – [Click here](#) and Scroll down to the **Resources** section for **Lent/Easter Resources**
- [Adult Faith Formation](#)
 - [Click here](#) and Scroll down to the **Resources** section for **Lent/Easter Resources** for adults
 - [Spotlight Adult Faith Formation / Catechist Certification courses](#)
 - [Sacraments](#) Online Course (**Registration Due Now!**)
 - [New Testament In-Person Course](#)
 - [Morality](#) Online Course
- [Catechesis with Hispanics](#)
 - [Methodology](#) in Spanish – Jan. 27, 2024 - Host Parish: Holy Trinity, Hackensack
 - [Evenings of Formation for Catechists in Spanish](#): January 29th, February 26th, March 18th, April 22nd, May 20th from 7:30-9PM at the Archdiocesan Center in Newark.
- [Catechist Formation](#) **and** [Catechesis in Catholic Schools](#)
 - [Methodology](#) – Feb 3, 2024 – Host Parish: St. Aloysius, Caldwell
 - [Vocation of the Catechist](#) at St. Philomena Parish in Livingston, Saturday, March 2nd
 - 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 details.

THE CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE – FREE WEBINAR SERIES

- Tuesday, 1/23 at 2:00pm – Making the OCIA Process Effectively Serve and Form Adults, Families, and Children – [Click here to register for this webinar.](#)
- Tuesday, 1/30 at 2:00pm – *In Spanish*: Pasos prácticos para enseñarles a rezar a los niños y jóvenes // Practical steps for teaching children or youth to pray – [Click here to register for this webinar.](#)

CATECHUMENEON DIGITAL INSTITUTE

- Virtual Workshop Series : [Incorporating Unbaptized Children into the Parish Religious Education Program](#)
- A three-part workshop to explore how to adapt a traditional school-year religious education program to embody more of the rich vision for catechesis contained in the RCIA
- January 25 and February 1 and 8, 2024 from 1:00pm - 2:30pm ET
- \$45 per computer - Click on the link above for more information to register.

GATHERING ON YOUTH MINISTRY - JANUARY 31 - [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.

MAKING GREAT DECISIONS: HOW SOME "SPIRITUAL TECHNOLOGIES" OF THE CATHOLIC TRADITION CAN HELP US

- Webinar with [Chris Lowney](#), best-selling author and leadership expert, hosted by Renew International
- Thursday, February 1st at 2 pm ET - [Click Here for details and to register](#).

NEW! ESSEX COUNTY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY GAME NIGHT!

- Friday, February 9, 2024 from 7:30-9:30 PM at [St. Philomena Parish, Livingston](#) (St. Joseph Hall)
- Open to all those age 21-35 – For more information, email Stephanie at stephaniesonnick@gmail.com.

VIRTUAL LENTEN FAITH-SHARING EXPERIENCE – THURSDAYS IN LENT AT 2 P.M.

- Join author Sister Donna Ciangio, Patty Rodriguez, Milissa Else, and other leaders for a virtual Lenten faith-sharing experience using [Open Our Hearts](#) (Year B), RENEW's new Lenten resource!
- Each weekly small-group session includes scripture, prayer and reflections along with concrete ways to live out that faith. For details and to register, [CLICK HERE](#)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH MASS – ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

- Sunday, February 25, 2024 • 2:30 PM at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark
- For details, contact [Rahsaan Garlin](#), Liaison Associate, [African American, African and Caribbean Apostolate](#)

PCL MEETING/WORKSHOP FEATURING DR. JOSEPH WHITE

- Dr. White will be presenting on three themes from the New Directory for Catechesis: **Kerygma, Christian Anthropology, and Missionary Discipleship**.
- Thursday, February 29, 2024 from 9:30 am - 2:00 pm - St. John Neumann Pastoral Center, Piscataway

LITURGY PREPARATION AID 2024: LENT- TRIDUUM-EASTER

- [CLICK HERE](#) for the English version of the Liturgical Preparation Aid for the Great Ninety Days. (The Spanish version will be posted soon.)

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

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

January 24 – [St. Francis de Sales](#)

- Pray with this [Prayer](#) of St. Francis de Sales, and find additional [resources](#) and [more!](#)

January 25 - [The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle](#)

- Learn why St. Paul's conversion is [one of the most important moments](#) in Church history.
- Facts of faith – [St. Paul's Conversion](#)

January 27 – [St. Angela Merici](#) - [Patron saint of physically challenged people and illnesses](#)

January 28 – St. Thomas Aquinas - Bishop Barron on St. Thomas Aquinas in the 21st century

- Learn about the [history](#) of St. Thomas Aquinas, the [angelic doctor](#), and find [additional resources](#) about this great saint.

January 28 - February 3 - Catholic Schools Week

- This year's theme is "[United in Faith and Community](#)." The Archdiocese of Newark is blessed with [Catholic schools](#) that help parents teach the Catholic faith to their children across the archdiocese.
- Pray for Catholic school teachers and staff, pastors, parents, and children as they thank God for and [celebrate Catholic school education!](#)

January 31 – St. John Bosco - "Father and Teacher of Youth"

- Read about the [history](#) of St. John Bosco.
- Click [here](#) for more information about St. John Bosco, and find additional resources [here](#).

February is Black History Month

- Learn about [African American Catholic Saints](#) and celebrate [the influence and beautiful witness](#) of those who broke racial barriers and fought against racial injustice while spreading the word of God.
- Learn about and pray with [African Americans in the Catholic Church](#) with the Prayer Service found [here](#).

February 2 - Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple

The Feast of the [Presentation of the Lord](#) creates a fitting transition from Christmas to Easter. The small Christ-Child is still in His Mother's arms, but already she is offering Him in sacrifice.

- Have a [meal](#) and some prayer time by [candlelight](#) and talk about ideas for how each family member can give more of themselves to God. For young children, ask what they can do to make God happy.
- [Light a Prayer Candle](#) - Pray the "Presentation of Our Lord" [decade of the rosary](#).

February 2 - World Day for Consecrated Life

February 3 – St. Blaise

- [The physician St. Blaise](#) helped a young boy who had a fishbone stuck in his throat.
- The annual [blessing of throats](#) coincides with the commemoration of St. Blaise.

February 5 - St. Agatha

- St. Agatha suffered sexual assault and indignity because of [her faith and purity](#)
- She is the [patron of survivors](#) of sexual assault, and the protector of women who are in danger.

February 7-14 - National Marriage Week

- This year's theme, "[Love Beyond Words](#)" highlights the loving union and personal self-gift of husband and wife that is willed by God, and points to Christ who gives Himself to us in perfect love.
- Join your spouse in offering a [Prayer for Married Couples](#), or take an at-home [Seven-Day Virtual Marriage Retreat](#).

February 8 - St. Josephine Bakhita

- [St. Josephine](#) was a slave who later became a religious sister. Learn more about St. Josephine Bakhita [here](#).
- [Pray](#) with St. Josephine for the safety and strength for Christians living in parts of the world where it is not safe to be a Christian.

February 8 - [International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking](#)

- On this day, Catholics all over the world are [encouraged to pray and create greater awareness](#) about and combat the tragic reality of human trafficking.

February 10 - [St. Scholastica](#)

- [St. Scholastica](#) and her twin brother, [St. Benedict](#), gave themselves totally to God, sacrificing even their time together as a family in order to fulfill their religious vocations.

February 11 - [World Day of the Sick](#)

February 11 - [Our Lady of Lourdes](#)

Our Lady has appeared to many people throughout history, including a fourteen-year-old girl named [Bernadette](#) in Lourdes, France.

- [Ten Things to Know](#) about Our Lady of Lourdes - [Pray for the sick](#) in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes
- Plan a [grotto-themed craft](#) or snack to honor Our Lady of Lourdes

February 12 - [World Marriage Day](#)

- Sponsored by [Worldwide Marriage Encounter](#), World Marriage Day highlights the beauty of marriage and [honors husbands and wives](#) for their love and faithfulness to one another.
- Marriage creates families that become [domestic churches](#) forming souls for Christ!

February 14 – [Ash Wednesday](#) - [LENTEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE](#)

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

- The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.
- The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. Additional information can be found [here](#).
- Download these printable [fasting guidelines](#). Read [A Reflection on Lenten Fasting](#).
- Check out these [resources](#) and [more](#) for [explaining Ash Wednesday to your children](#)! Make your Ash Wednesday a holy entrance into the [Lenten season](#).
- **Observing the Lenten Season** - Check out these online Lenten resources:
 - [Loyola Press](#) - resources for your Lenten journey
 - [Catechist's Journey](#) - articles, activities, and prayers
 - Pray with the [Hallow App](#)
 - [Catholic Sprouts](#) - Podcasts, resources, prayers, games, and more!
 - [Dynamic Catholic](#) - prayers, ideas, and sign up for *Best Lent Ever* emails
 - [Sadlier Religion](#) - activities, prayers, and more!
 - [Maryknoll](#) - Lenten Reflection Guides

February 14 – [St. Valentine's Day](#)

- VALENTINE'S DAY WITH LITTLE ONES - Carve out some time to sit with your little ones and prepare some Valentine's Day [festivities](#) in your home. Find activities and ideas [here](#)!
- LOVE LETTERS - Create a special family event for everyone, young and old, to write (or color) love letters to other members of the family. Encourage your kids to say, "I love you," and to recognize what they love about other members of the family, including grandparents. Exchange your love letters during a special [Valentine's Day meal](#), or have a [family party](#). Give thanks for the love your family shares.
- **SERVICE IDEA FOR PCLs** - Think about ways you can spread God's love to others in your community...your church family, neighbors, grocery store shoppers, people in retirement homes...What better way to delight someone who might not otherwise receive a Valentine this year?

February 22 - [The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle](#)

- This is a day set aside to [pray for Pope Francis](#), past popes, and future popes.
- Enjoy Pope Francis [activities](#) and [printables](#) with your family - Learn more [here](#)

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
- **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



CATECHETICAL OFFICE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

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