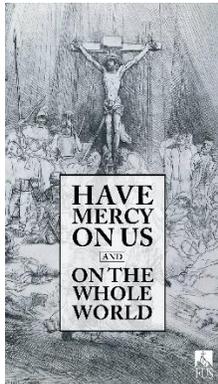


Department of  
Evangelization & Catechesis

**Growing Disciples – Wednesday Wrap**  
**Glorifying God – Growing in Faith**  
**Living our Catholic Faith in the World**  
March 6, 2019 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)*

**Lenten Website from Franciscan University, the Publisher of the Catechetical Review:**



Beginning today Franciscan University, who publishes the Catechetical Review, has launched their Lenten 2019 website. There are free videos of fasting, prayer and almsgiving; a Lenten music playlist; lockscreens for cell phones and much more.

The website includes four types of resources:

- Franciscan Voices – The friars, staff, conference speakers and students explore the central questions of the Lenten season.
- #ShareJesus – Daily reflections and meditations to help you invite Jesus into your life. This is also on our website too as a resource.
- Genesis to Jesus – Join Dr. Scott Hahn and others in an Old Testament study by following this series from the Saint Paul Center.
- Lent Listens – a Lenten playlist has been created for you from Spotify as well as Catholic podcasts including favorites such as Fr. Mike Schmitz.

Website link: <https://weare.franciscan.university/catholic-podcasts/#1551207954553-5bc9ed8a-5fba>

**Please pray for those in RCIA as they participate in the Rite of Election:**

The Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates who are preparing for Confirmation and/or Eucharist or Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church will be held this weekend. We will gather at Corpus Christi Parish in Council Bluffs on March 9, and there will be two gatherings on March 10 at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines.



A wonderful activity that connects those who will be receiving sacraments is cards of encouragement. RCIA members can send cards to families with children receiving 1<sup>st</sup> holy Communion or teens receiving Confirmation. These young people can create cards and send them to RCIA catechumens and candidates.

At the very least, please take the opportunity to pray for all of our catechumens, candidates and uncatechized Catholics on their journey towards Confirmation and Eucharist.

Lord God,  
whose love brings us to life  
and whose mercy gives us new birth,  
look favorably upon these catechumens and candidates,  
and conform their lives to the pattern of Christ's suffering.  
May he become their wealth and wisdom,  
and may they know in their lives  
the power flowing from his resurrection,  
who is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

### **Lenten 2019 Resources:**



Lent begins today. If you did not have an opportunity to look at the many resources available to you and your volunteers, please follow this link to our website. You will find many resources for every age group. There are free resources for spiritual growth, Lenten activities, from our publishing companies and charitable outreach from the Rice Bowl.

Website Link: <https://www.dmdiocese.org/ministries-and-faith-formation/adult-faith-formation>

### **Faith in Action – Be Part of the Diocesan Chrism Mass by pouring the Sacred Oils:**

The Chrism Mass will be held at 7:00 pm on Friday April 12 at 7:00 pm. Sherri and I are working with Sandy Reisberg on recruiting volunteers who can help during the Mass pouring the sacred oils into the vessels to be distributed to parishes.

The pouring of the oils must be done during the Mass so the volunteers would not be participating in the Chrism Mass. Our task is to recruit teen volunteers from parishes to help. It would be a wonderful experience for current Confirmation candidates since this Chrism will be



used at their Confirmation Mass. Each teen volunteer would also receive service hours. We need 30 to 35 for this project. In the past we have ordered pizza or Subway platters for the volunteers. Sandy Reisburg will provide more information for those interested, but ideally they would arrive around 6:30 pm wearing clothes that can get dirty in case they spill oil on themselves.

If you can help with recruiting and teens agree to help with the project please do the following:

- Contact Sherri ([ssimmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdiocese.org)) or me ([jgaffney@dmdiocese.org](mailto:jgaffney@dmdiocese.org)) and let us know the number and names of the teens
- Please let us know if we can e-mail an information sheet directly to them and their parents or if you would like that to be sent to you (include teens and parent's e-mail address)

I need to know by noon on Monday, April 8 if you have teen volunteers so that the information sheet can be e-mailed by Tuesday. The Chrism Mass is beautiful and many people from around the diocese work very hard to make the celebration look like the many faces of the diocese. Even if your teens may not be able to assist, I encourage you to have them attend as part of their formation. I hope your teens can be part of this beautiful celebration. Thank you for your help.

### **March CLADD Session Canceled:**



The All CLADD Session on March 14 has been canceled. Due to the inability to plan an awesome day because of my surgical recovery we will look to our time in 2019-2020 to break open the topic of best practices in lifelong formation. Thank you to JoAnn Sayre and the St. Thomas Aquinas staff for all their hard work.

### **Free Webinars that Are Available by Our Sunday Visitor:**

#### **Entering the World of Family Catechesis**

Thursday, March 21 at 1:00 pm

Presented by Dr. Kathleen Amidei

Have you thought about the possibility of starting a Family Model or moving into more intentional faith formation involving the whole family? Do you have some trepidation about the time and energy this will take? Find encouragement from the Church and from outcome based research to get started. Learn why including families in faith formation is critically important for the life of your parish. We will share some strategies that will help you deal with this transition and some practical ideas to help you get started. Join us as we (will) explore information and share inspiration that will empower you to take the first steps toward a systematic family program in your parish.



Use this link to register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7582510758116275457>

“Let the Church always be  
a place of Mercy  
AND Hope,  
where everyone is welcomed  
Loved and Forgiven.” Pope Francis

